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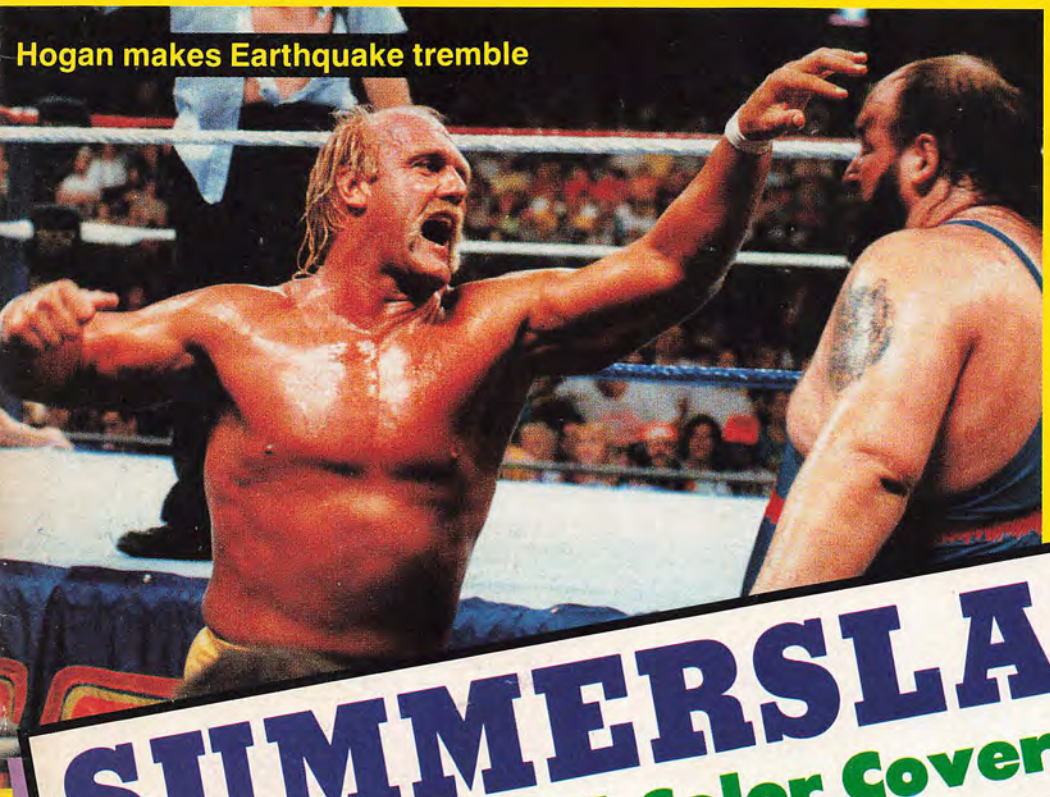
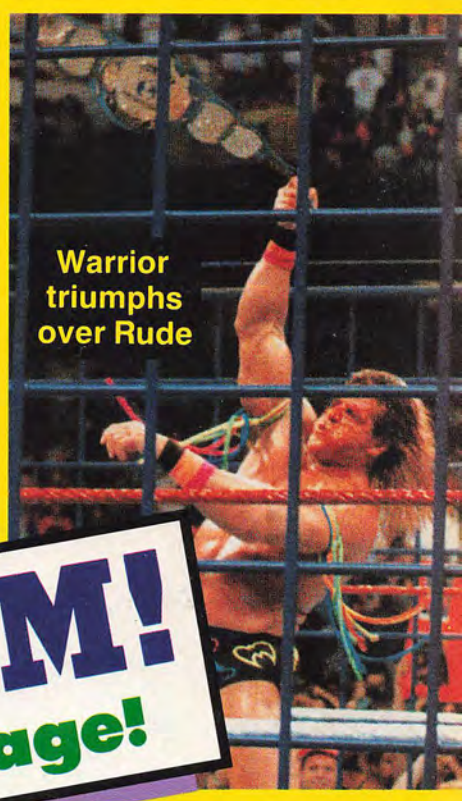


Hogan makes Earthquake tremble



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THE Wrestler

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YOUR LETTERS

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COUNTING HIS CHICKENS?

Although Sting has been NWA World champion for only a few months, I think he's already getting a little big for his britches. The article he penned in the October 1990 issue ("A Special Report By Sting: How Ric Flair Can Regain His Greatness") was arrogant, presumptuous, and just plain wrong. How can Sting accuse Flair of not being great when Sting has yet to achieve greatness himself?

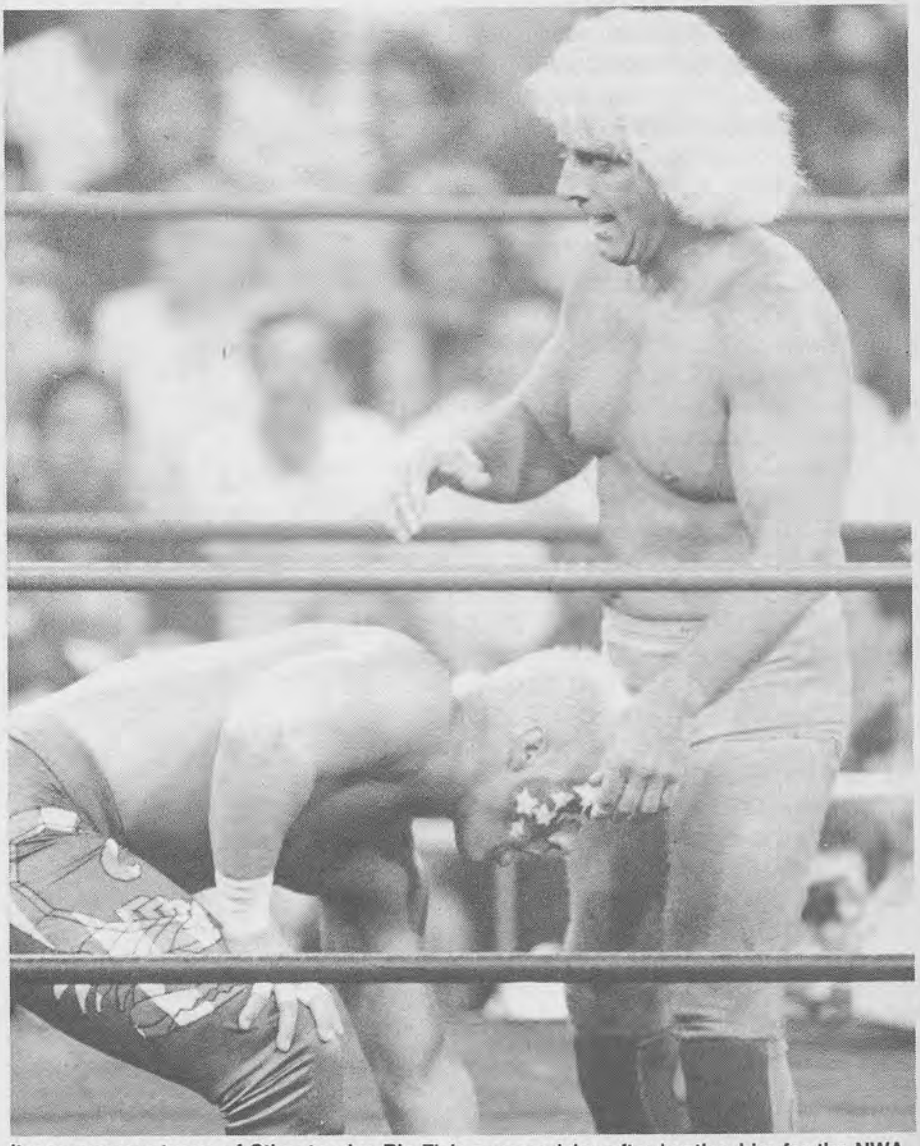
Sting is an outstanding young wrestler, but he has a hell of a long way to go before he can start telling a legend like Flair what to do. It is that incredible self-importance that will surely makes Sting's title reign a short one. He's clearly too much in love with himself!

ELAINE THOMASINO
Seattle

A CURT RESPONSE

The way Curt Hennig talks, you'd never know that he once languished as a lowly preliminary wrestler. I know better, and the article in the October 1990 issue told everybody what longtime fans like me already realized ("Curt Hennig: Making The World Pay For His Past Imperfection").

Hennig has developed into a very



It was presumptuous of Sting to give Ric Flair career advice after beating him for the NWA World title, in reader Elaine Thomasino's opinion.

good wrestler—he'd have to be to win the Intercontinental championship—but he has absolutely no business taking his frustrations out on everybody around him. He'd be better off forgetting about his rocky past and thinking about the present, because The Ultimate Warrior keeps beating him over and over again!

CARRIE IVORY
Indianapolis

A story in the October 1990 issue detailed Curt Hennig's past. Reader Carrie Ivory is glad it showed other readers what she already knew: Hennig is far from perfect.

SELECTIVE RECALL

I just finished watching *World Championship Wrestling* on Super-Station TBS. The feature match on the show was The Midnight Express vs. Brian Pillman and Tom Zenk. During the match, announcer Jim Ross said that the Express' recent U.S. tag team title win over Pillman and Zenk only occurred because of "Jim Cornette's outside interference."

That is a complete lie! The Midnight Express beat Pillman and Zenk fair and square at "Capital Combat '90." Cornette could not have interfered because he was locked up in a small steel cage. What is even more amazing is that Ross was the announcer during the card and witnessed the title change firsthand!

The Midnight Express won the U.S. tag team title from Brian Pillman and Tom Zenk, even though Jim Cornette was locked in a cage. Reader Jason Mercer says Jim Ross shouldn't have accused Cornette of interfering.

Either Jim Ross has a short memory, or this is just another example of his bias against Jim Cornette and The Midnight Express.

JASON MERCER
Atco, NJ

CHAMP OR CHUMP?

Ric Flair is wrestling's biggest joke, yet all you butt-kissing, mindless writers keep praising him as the greatest wrestler ever. True, he was great years ago, but he's lost it. I can't remember the last time he pinned a quality wrestler. Can you?

I still remember the days when being a world champion meant something. Remember Verne Gagne, Bruno Sammartino, Jack Brisco, and Hulk Hogan? These great champions took pride in pinning the top contenders to their belts. How low this sport has sunk when wrestlers like Flair are praised as the greatest of all time.

I really hope that Flair gets his wake-up call and again becomes the skilled, determined, and exciting wrestler that he once was!

DAVE ANDRESS
Fairless Hills, PA

GIGANTE FLOP

When I read the "Introducing" feature on El Gigante in the September 1990 issue, I really expected the guy to be as awesome as his size. But at

(Continued on page 50)

El Gigante (with Paul Orndorff) was a flop at the Great American Bash, says reader Jason Panick.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

RICK AND SCOTT Steiner are the new NWA U.S. tag team champions! The popular duo upset **The Midnight Express—Stan Lane** and **Bobby Eaton**—for the belts on August 24 at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

For the Steiners, the victory represents a comeback from a mini-slump that started when they lost the NWA World tag team title to **Ron Simmons** and **Butch Reed** on May 19 in Washington, D.C. But Rick and Scott stayed together as a team in the weeks following that loss, and lobbied NWA officials for an opportunity at the U.S. title.

"Rick would get a little down at times, but we both knew that all we needed was another chance for some belts," said a jubilant Scott shortly after Rick pinned **Bobby Eaton** to capture the championship. "**Doom** has been trying to avoid us lately, so we figured that if we could win the U.S. tag title, we'd be sure to get another shot at the World belts. I figure that as U.S. champions, we should be top contenders for the World belts right now!"

The match started slowly, but soon Scott was befuddling both Express members with massive suplexes. After Lane and Eaton took abuse from the Steiners for several minutes—including an incredible "Frankensteiner" by Scott on Lane—Cornette handed his tennis racket to Lane, who smashed Scott in the back.

All four men were battling when

Rick & Scott Steiner captured the U.S. tag team title from The Midnight Express at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey.

Rick threw Lane from the ring. At the same time, Scott used the "Steinerline" to hit Eaton from behind. When Eaton returned to his feet, Rick caught him with another clothesline from the front. Eaton collapsed to the mat, and Rick made the winning pin at the 15:40 mark.

"I think we're a better team now than we were when we held the World title," said Rick, who previously held the U.S. tag title with **Eddie Gilbert** in 1989. "From what I understand, our big win has really done a number on the Express. I heard they might even break up because we beat 'em!"

Indeed, the hottest rumors in the sport continue to swirl around Eaton, Lane, and their manager, **Jim Cornette**. Several sources claim that the Express may be ready to dump the "Louisville slugger" as their leader, although Cornette vehemently denies those reports. For more on the Express-Cornette situation, don't miss our "Hotseat" interview with Cornette in the December 1990 edition of *Inside Wrestling*, currently on sale.

It's hard to believe the shocking change that has come over **Sgt. Slaughter** since the former Marine drill instructor returned to the WWF. At a television taping on August 28 in Hershey, Pennsylvania, Slaughter introduced his new manager—**Gen. Adnan**, who is none other than **Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie**. Just a few months ago, Slaughter and Al-Kaissie were deadly enemies in the AWA, and even had some skirmishes while Slaughter served as a commentator in the LPWA!

"Sure, Slaughter hated Al-Kaissie, but I guess he hates **Nikolai Volkoff** even more," said **Judy Martin**, whom Al-Kaissie managed along with **Lelani Kai** before departing for the WWF. "Sarge needed someone who despises Russia as much as he did, and I guess Sheik fills the bill. There's no way Volkoff and **Hacksaw Duggan** can defeat a tough team like Sarge and Sheik!"

There's also been a startling change in **Tony Atlas** since he returned to the WWF. The former ICW champion is now being billed as **Sama Simba** . . . Georgia All-Star champion **Nick Busick** pulled off an amazing feat of strength when he bodyslammed **Abdullah the Butcher** during a recent match . . . Two title changes from the World Wrestling Council: **Lance Idol** and **Rick Valentine** won the WWC tag team title from **The Super Medics** on August 18 in Caguas, Puerto Rico. Seven days later in the same city, **"Rotten" Ron Starr** took the WWC junior heavyweight championship from **Hurricane Castillo Jr.**

Sgt. Slaughter used to despise Adnan Al-Kaissie (they feuded frequently in the AWA), but now he's being managed by the Iraqi in the WWF!

Eddie Gilbert is one of the favorites to win the USWA title in the upcoming tournament for that belt.

The Snowman was stripped of the USWA championship after he failed to show up for his title defense against **Brickhouse Brown** on August 27 at the Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis. According to matchmaker **Eddie Marlin**, Snowman failed to appear for more than a month's worth of title defenses.

"This was a hard decision to make, but we had to take drastic measures," said USWA President **Max Andrews**. "For the most part, Snowman was an honorable titleholder. But that doesn't excuse him for blatantly failing to appear for his matches. Some reports have told us that Snowman injured himself while working out in the weight room. That's unfortunate, but we have to get along with business now. If he's healthy enough, we'll allow him to take part in our upcoming tournament to fill the vacant belt."

Early favorties to win the tourney are former USWA champion **Jerry Lawler**, **Eddie Gilbert**, **Bill Dundee**, and current USWA Southwestern champion **John Tatum**—who himself disappeared for several weeks!

Two new wrestling organizations will soon be appearing on TV screens across the country. The Universal Wrestling Federation—not to be confused with **Bill Watts'** UWF from the late '80s or the Japanese UWF—has signed a contract to present wrestling action on the SportsChannel America cable network beginning in October. Scheduled to appear for the UWF are **Big John Studd**, **The Iron Sheik**, **Rick Steamboat**, **The Killer Bees**, and other top stars.

Also, the International Wrestling Alliance has expanded and is embarking on an ambitious tour of California, Wyoming, Arizona, and other states. The IWA champion is **B. Brian Blair**.

Eric Embry has been teaming with **Richard Charland** in Japan . . . **Antonio Inoki** has announced his retirement from Japanese rings. A special day in his honor was planned for September 30 in Tokyo.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

STEVE ANDERSON'S VIEW

NO HOLDS BARRED

with David Rosenbaum

"Sid Vicious went berserk at the NWA television taping at the Cobb County Center here."
—From the August 27 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly*

Sid Vicious has led an undisciplined career. Joining The Four Horsemen has barely changed him, and some wrestlers say he's totally uncontrollable.

WHEN THE FINAL chapter is written on Sid Vicious' career, it might read like this: His violent temper, devil-may-care attitude, and incredible intensity, once thought to be his greatest assets, ironically led to his downfall.

"Sid can be a bit rambunctious at times," admitted Ole Anderson, manager of The Four Horsemen. "It's something we're working on."

Since the start of his career, in fact, Vicious has been like an out-of-control freight train. He's off-track and headed for disaster.

This is a man whose career has never taken any clear direction. After early eye-catching success in the CWF and CWA areas, Vicious went to Japan for some seasoning. It was the proper, mature move, but Vicious came home disappointed.

"He came for seasoning, but he was taught a wrestling lesson," said Japanese wrestling correspondent Koichi Yoshizawa. "Although the fans took to him and he showed brilliant flashes, in the end he has humbled. He should have learned from the experience."

Vicious returned to the United States and the CWA, then signed with the NWA and fell under Teddy Long's spell. After an injury ended his Skyscrapers partnership with Dan Spivey—and kept him out of action for several months—Vicious returned to the ring in late-June and joined The Four Horsemen.

It was the worst move he could have made.

"Sid is an individual, and he has the potential to become one of the greatest singles wrestlers of all time," Lex Luger said. "With the Horsemen, he's gonna have to make too many sacrifices. I don't think he can handle it."

And, from all indications, he *hasn't* handled it.

(Continued on page 54)

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BLINDSIDED

BY BOB SMITH

IT WAS SUPPOSED to be the most incredible fighting force ever assembled. When Ric Flair and Arn Anderson invited Barry Windham and Sid Vicious to join them this past April, it was all set. The Four Horsemen were about to become more powerful than they had ever been.

Obviously, it didn't work out that way. Does anybody *really* think the Horsemen are even close to their glory years of 1987 and 1988, when they dominated the NWA's roster of titles?

Barry Windham

This latest Horsemen roster seems to be taking an inordinate amount of time to jell, though lately things seem to have picked up a bit. Anderson pretty much ignores his TV belt *(see the story on page 42),* but Flair seems rejuvenated by his attempts to win the U.S. title from Lex Luger. Sid Vicious is on the verge of becoming a contender for Sting's World gold. As for Barry Windham, well . . .

Barry, where *are* you?

Since rejoining the Horsemen this past spring, Windham's top victory was his pinfall over Doug Furnas at Clash of the Champions XI back on June 13. After that impressive (though illegal) win, it was expected that Windham would soon become a top contender for either the NWA World or U.S. title. Instead, the former "Widowmaker" seems to be content to take part in meaningless tag team matches. Why this sorry waste of talent?

As it turns out, Windham may be the most loyal of all the Horsemen. He claims he'd do anything within his power to help his rulebreaking organization remain powerful, even if it means putting his own personal goals on the back burner.

"When I returned to the Horsemen, I knew what my main purpose was," said Windham in a rare moment of candor as he prepared to take part in yet another six-man tag team match, at New Jersey's Byrne Meadowlands Arena. "I was brought back at great expense to ensure that Ric Flair remained champion for as long as he wanted to. Hey, for the kind of bread I'm making from the Horsemen, I'd do *anything.*

"But in many ways, I feel like I've failed," continued Windham. "When I wasn't able to prevent Sting from beating Ric for the title, I felt like I was to blame. Since then, I've been trying to make amends by helping Arn and Sid beat up Paul Orndorff, Luger, Junkyard Dog, and that big goon El Gigante in six-man tag matches. What could be better than wiping out all the Dudes With Attitudes at once?"

That may explain Windham's motivations, but why hasn't he at least tried to establish himself as a contender again?

"My time will come," said Windham sternly. "Flair is the former champion, and he deserves the first chances to regain the World belt. Sid should be next, I think. Hey, if we're wrong about that guy's potential, then we should all find another business. Arn's happy with the TV belt, and I'll be more than happy to help him keep it any way I can. But, after that . . ."

Windham's voiced trailed off. I could tell he was looking for the proper way to explain his feelings.

"I *will* wrestle for Sting's World title," Windham said with conviction. "I *will* try to regain the U.S. belt from Luger, too. I've been a good company man up to this point, but if the other Horsemen don't get the job done, then it will be my time to shine."

A good company man. After speaking with Windham, I realized that he truly was wasting his career on the Horsemen. Less than two years ago, this talented athlete was among the most popular wrestlers in the sport.

He'd be better off on his own. He'd be poorer in the pocket, but he'd surely be richer in the soul. □

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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.

Thumbs Up to Big Bossman. Just one year ago, Bossman was one of the most hated men in the WWF. Archrival of Hulk Hogan, friend of One Man Gang, and a member of Slick's evil stable, he could always be counted on to commit the most heinous of wrestling crimes. Times have changed! By coming to Tugboat's aid following an attack by Earthquake and Dino Bravo, and standing in Hogan's corner for the main event of SummerSlam '90, Bossman proved that he is a man of honor. People *can* change! And Bossman has found that the grass is, indeed, greener on the other side of the fence. There's reward in honor!

Thumbs Up to Vic Steamboat. The Steamboat family has always brought honor to the sport, and Vic is following proudly in Rick's footsteps. By winning the ICW heavyweight title from Tony Atlas and setting an agenda of goodwill, Steamboat gives hope to ICW fans, who know the belt is in good hands. We can count on Vic to defend the title against a host of challengers, and we can count on him to do so honestly. Steamboat's title reign won't be easy, but it will be honorable. Honor! It's a word that's springing up a lot in this column this month, and that's good news for our sport!

Thumbs Up to Robert Gibson. Wrestling, sport of the people, is also the sport of the disadvantaged. It belongs to everyone: the disabled, the poor, the sick, the blind, and the deaf. Which brings us to Gibson of The Rock 'n' Roll Express, who uses sign language in all of their interviews. Gibson's father is hearing-impaired, so Robert recognizes the needs of these people. While we can't expect every wrestler to learn sign language, we hope that every wrestler will be spurred on to do his part to help the disabled. The sport belongs to them, too. Charity begins in the heart!

Thumbs Up to Harley Race. People thought his career was over, but Harley Race has never been one to give in to popular opinion. The seven-time former NWA World champion is wrestling a full schedule of matches at an age when most wrestlers have long retired. He's even become a top contender for Larry Zbyszko's AWA World title! Scoff at Race. Say he's too old to be champion. But Race has the wisdom and skill to upset Zbyszko. Stranger things have happened. In this era of older athletes accomplishing great feats, Race as AWA World champion isn't out of the question.

Thumbs Down

Thumbs Down to Eddie Gilbert. "Hot Stuff" is playing with fire once again—literally—and somebody must put an end to his dangerous actions. During a USWA TV taping, Gilbert tossed a fireball at Jerry Lawler. Fortunately he missed, but Lawler could have suffered severe and permanent injury. Men like Gilbert seem to take their feuds a little too far. Wrestling is competitive *sport,* not war. As long as Gilbert insists on fighting his battles with dangerous weapons, he should be banned from the USWA. Perhaps career frustrations have taken their toll on Gilbert. But Lawler shouldn't have to pay the price.

Thumbs Down to Robert Fuller. He's up to no good again. Is that any surprise? Fuller's career has been filled with crimes and misdeeds. His return to Florida has been no exception. Fuller renewed his rivalry with Steve Keirn and brought along his own referee: Jim Bragg. It was a sign of things to come. Fuller broke every rule in the book, and Bragg let him get away with it. Fuller made a mockery of the sport and came very close to winning the Florida title from Keirn. Fortunately, justice won out when Mickey Jay, a fair referee, took over the match. Unfortunately, Fuller is still in Florida and up to his tricks.

Thumbs Down to Jimmy Hart. For the past six years, Hart has had one goal: to run Hulk Hogan out of the sport. His singleminded attempt to disgrace and destroy Hogan has consumed every one of his wrestlers. He engineered Earthquake's attack on Hogan. He planned Dino Bravo and Earthquake's attack on Tugboat. Hart has become quite a laughable figure in the WWF because of his futile attempts at felling Hogan. Hart has clearly taken his crusade too far. Failure looks so natural on this man! Maybe he should concentrate on more mortal targets.

Thumbs Down to Arn Anderson. He's the NWA TV champion, but who would know it? Some people say the TV title is a thing of the past. Others point out that the NWA is the only federation that still has a significant TV title. They say that's reason enough to get rid of it. We say it's reason enough to *keep* it! The NWA TV title is a relic, sure, a museum piece, indeed, but it's also a part of our lore! Let's keep it alive, like baseball purists want to keep Wrigley Field and Fenway Park alive! Unfortunately, Anderson's lack of title defenses—he virtually ignores the belt—are lending to its extinction. For shame! □

CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

Canton, OH ***(Correspondent—Mike Manges):*** Tempers flared when "Mean" Mark Callous challenged Lex Luger for the U.S. title before a throng of enthusiastic fans at the Canton Civic Center.

Luger started out explosively, commanding the bout from the outset, but Callous soon began to control the tempo with a combination of eyerakes and armbars.

Responding to the fans' cheers, "The Total Package" gained the advantage on Callous with a series of punches. The battle spilled out of the ring briefly. When the match returned to the ring, Luger whipped Callous into the ropes and caught him with a devastating powerslam.

The U.S. champion was about to lift Callous into a backbreaker, but he was distracted by Paul E. Dangerously, who had climbed up on the ring apron. Meanwhile, "Mean Mark" grabbed Dangerously's portable phone and nailed Luger with it. Callous made the cover, but Luger quickly kicked out.

Luger snatched the phone and slugged Callous with it. Referee Mike Atkins saw this and disqualified Luger. However, another official explained that Callous had initially used the phone on Luger, so the decision was reversed, giving Luger the disqualification victory.

When "Mean" Mark Callous wrestled Lex Luger for the U.S. title, he received a lot of help from his manager, Paul E. Dangerously.

In other bouts: Rick & Scott Steiner beat The Samoan Swat Team . . . Buddy Landell pinned Wendell Cooley . . . Robert Gibson & Brian Pillman defeated Butch Reed & Ivan Koloff . . . The Midnight Express beat Brad Armstrong & Brad Anderson . . . Bam Bam Bigelow defeated David Sierra . . . El Gigante pinned Dr. X.

Bloomington, MN ***(Correspondent—Jason Biagi):*** "Ravishing" Rick Rude and "Mr Perfect" Curt Hennig returned to their home state to battle WWF World champion The Ultimate Warrior and "Texas Tornado" Kerry Von Erich.

Von Erich and Hennig started

(Continued on page 56)

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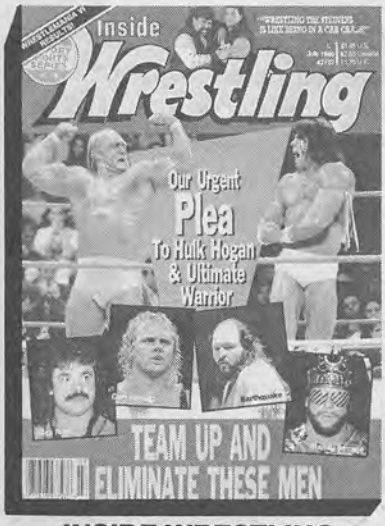

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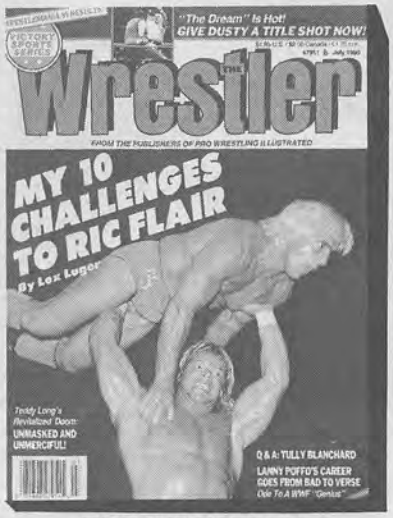

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YOU ASKED US

This is the monthly feature that answers ALL your most important questions about the mat sport, the stars, and the feuds. Send us your most perplexing queries and we'll have them answered for you by the world's finest grapplers and most insightful mat reporters. Address your questions to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, P.O. Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

Q: "I would like to ask Terry 'Bamm Bamm' Gordy what he thinks of Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin calling themselves The Freebirds. Also, will we ever see all The Freebirds team together anytime soon?—David Webb, Washington, NC

A: "Michael and Jimmy can do whatever they wanna do," said Gordy with his usual surly growl. "What people can't seem to get through their nappy heads is that once you've been part of this organization, you're a Freebird for life. Michael and Jimmy have done a terrific job in keeping the Freebird tradition alive. They won the NWA World tag team title, didn't they? I also understand that my ol' pal Buddy Roberts has returned to help them out. I think that's great! Nobody will ever be able to stop 'em now. Frankly, I don't think they need my help anymore, and that's why I'm happy wrestling mainly in Japan. I've won my share of titles in the Orient, and I'm the biggest star there. But someday, who knows? Maybe the four Freebirds can tear up this sport like no team ever has before!"

Jim Garvin and Michael Hayes *are* The Freebirds, says Terry Gordy, who maintains that he's a Freebird for life, even though he's not actively wrestling with Hayes right now.

***

Q: "My question is for Matt Borne: Will you go to the WWF to resume your feud with Kerry Von Erich?"—Darrell Stewart, Telford, Nova Scotia

A: "I don't care *what* Von Erich does with his career," said Borne, who currently is wrestling on the independent circuit. "Anybody who saw me wrestle Kerry in the USWA a few months ago will tell you that I beat him so bad he *still* hasn't recovered. Frankly, I think I taught him a lesson, so I see no need to traipse to the WWF just to pick a fight with him again. Frankly, I think winning the USWA or North American Wrestling Association titles would be much more exciting that soiling my hands on that horse-faced clod again."

***

Q: "This question is for Brian Pillman: Is there any chance that you could turn into a rulebreaker? Many other wrestlers have, and they've been able to win titles after doing it."—Michelle Moran, Philadelphia

A: "There's unequivocally no way that will ever happen," said Pillman sternly. "Frankly, I'm surprised that any of my fans would even ask me such a question. Ever since my football days, I've been very careful to uphold the best traditions of sportsmanship, and I'm not about to change now. When Tom Zenk and I won the U.S. tag

(Continued on page 58)

Matt Borne says he's beaten Kerry Von Erich so badly that he doesn't want to wrestle him again. He has no interest in continuing his feud with Von Erich in the WWF.

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INTRODUCING

SCOTT PUTSKI

By Kostya Kennedy

"IT'S TRUE THAT I've always been in my father's shadow, but in wrestling that's not a bad thing. I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing if it wasn't for him. And if I attain the same level of success that he's attained in his career—well, that's not too bad, is it?"

Not bad at all, when the person being spoken about is wrestling great Ivan Putski. "Even though my dad is always around to help and advise," says 23-year-old Scott Putski, "he never forces himself on me. He's not the type to make me do something I don't want to do."

What Putski is doing is forging a name for himself both as a wrestler and a football player. Scott went on to Texas Christian University, where he took up wrestling as a supplement to his skills as a star fullback. (In 1988 he led the Southwestern Conference with an average of 7.8 yards per carry.)

Putski was drafted by the Houston Oilers in 1989, but tore his achilles tendon that year and has yet to return to the gridiron. After spending six months in a leg cast, Scott is finally healthy again and hopes to play in the International League this January and make a bid for the NFL in 1991.

Scott Putski, son of wrestling great Ivan Putski, not only wants to be a professional wrestler, he wants to play pro football, too.

"I feel good, but I want to wait until the tendon is 110 percent before I start playing again," said Scott. "I love football and I know I have it in me to come back from this injury."

Meanwhile, Scott has been gaining respect in the squared circle and has no intentions of giving it up.

"Hey," he said, "if Bo Jackson

(Continued on page 60)

By following in the footprints of his famous father, and utilizing his own unique skills honed on the gridiron, "Polish Prince" Scott Putski is on his way to a bright ring career

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Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds

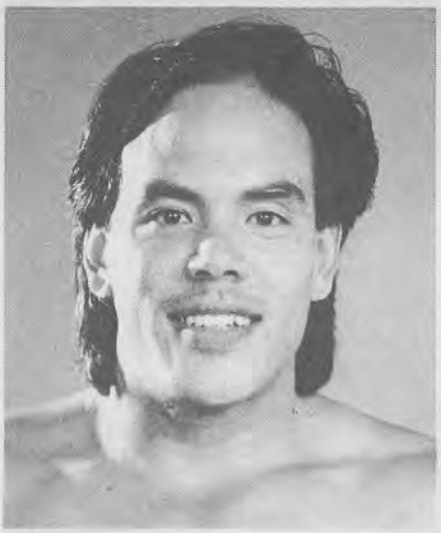
Vic Steamboat could hardly contain his anger with Tony Atlas when he wrestled him for the ICW title. Steamboat went on to capture the championship.

Q: Steamboat, I guess congratulations are in order for copping the ICW title from Tony Atlas. But of all places to win a title—Middletown, New York? I was there once. Stopped at the Orange Plaza shopping center. I found out it's the only mall in America that offers free parking for both cars and cows.

A: Hey, if you're trying to put down Middletown, I don't want to hear about it. The people there treated me great, and their cheers inspired me to victory over Atlas. You know, that's one of the things I like about the ICW. This organization travels to towns that the bigger federations don't seem to come to anymore. Those Middletown fans wanted to see me succeed against Atlas, and that's exactly what I did. It was a night I'll never forget.

Q: Yeah, it must've been a real thrill. I thought that a guy like you beating a man like Atlas had to be a fluke, but the next night in Hunter, New York—a place that makes Middletown look like Manhattan—you somehow got past Atlas again in the victory that sent Atlas scurrying from the ICW. How come you've turned Superman all of a sudden?

A: First of all, I don't think my improvement is any great surprise. If I've learned anything from my brother, it's that you've got to be



VIC STEAMBOAT

EVER SINCE HE began his pro career four years ago, Vic Steamboat has had to endure the same question day after day: Will he ever be as good a wrestler as his older brother, former NWA World and WWF Intercontinental champion Rick Steamboat?

Vic may not be quite as accomplished as Rick, but he's getting there. A former ICW tag team champ (with Joe Savoldi) in 1989, Steamboat enjoyed being a champion, but knew that tag team wrestling didn't fully satisfy his naturally competitive nature. Only a singles title would quench his thirst for success.

On July 24, Steamboat's dream came true when he defeated ICW champion Tony Atlas at the Orange County Fair in Middletown, New York. Several times in the past, the former Mr. USA dispatched of the Hawaiian contender without too much trouble. But on this occassion, Steamboat was brilliant from the outset. And the very next night, he downed Atlas again—in a loser-leaves-ICW bout!

Now that he's on top, Steamboat is vowing to be a champion who fights his battles honorably. But he had a battle of a different sort on his hands when Associate Editor Eddie Ellner was assigned to this interview.

solidly dedicated to this sport. There's no such thing as a part-time wrestler. You've got to live, breathe, and eat wrestling all the time. This year, I've dedicated myself not only to training, but to getting my mental attitude in peak condition. You can have the greatest body in the world, but it doesn't mean a thing if you don't have the right outlook to go with it. When I got in that ring with Atlas, I realized that he had defeated me many times in the past. I knew coming into that match that it might be the last opportunity I'd ever have against him. So I couldn't accept anything less than a clear-cut, decisive victory.

Q: Hold on, bub. A *clear-cut, decisive* victory? That's not the report I got on that match. What really happened was much closer to a lucky win. As I hear it, you intentionally knocked out that clumsy referee, Bill Silverman.

A: That's a lie! What happened is that I was dominating that match, and Atlas knew it. After about 20 minutes of getting his butt whipped, Tony knew that he had to go to drastic measures to keep his belt. He intentionally pushed me into Silverman, the ref's head hit the mat, and he was knocked out for a couple of minutes.

Q: So you say. Frankly, hitting a referee is a bit of a cowardly act,

Steamboat is eager to prove that he'll be as successful a champion as Atlas was, but that won't be easy: Atlas held the belt for more than a year.

wouldn't you agree?

A: You're way off-base, Ellner. Why haven't you mentioned what Atlas did after he knocked out the ref? The next thing I knew, Atlas held my arms behind me while his scummy manager, The Duke, made his way up to the ring apron. He tried to slug me, but Atlas wasn't holding me too tightly. I moved out of the way, and Duke ended up belting Atlas with a right cross right to the mush. Atlas fell to the canvas, I made the cover, Silverman made the three-count, and I became the new champion. *That's* what really happened, Eddie.

Q: Oh, what a hero we are, aren't we? Accepting a victory when it wasn't even your efforts that brought you the win. Frankly, you've got a long way to go before you become the *honorable* champion you're always talking about being.

A: That's where you're totally off-base again, Ellner. The next night in Hunter, I cleanly pinned Atlas without any kind of controversy at all. And in my title defenses after sending Atlas packing, I've scored nothing but victory after victory. Every time, I've scored my pinfalls without having to resort to the kind of shady tactics that many wrestlers like to use these days. I don't pull tights. I don't punch with a closed fist. I *wrestle*, and that's what makes me different from just about every other champion I can think of.

Q: You know, that's the same kind of song and dance that your brother, Rick, used to spiel to make me lose my lunch back when he was NWA World champion in '89. Do you keep in contact with your brother, or doesn't he have enough time to speak with you between burpings and marathon diapering sessions?

A: Yes, I do keep in contact with Rick, and you best watch how you talk about my brother. I'll have you know that he's every bit as proud of me as I was of him when he was champion. Granted, the ICW isn't nearly as big a federation as the NWA, but I haven't been a wrestler nearly as long as Rick has, either. We both feel that the ICW title is a fantastic first step toward establishing myself as a true star. Besides, the competition gets better here every day.

After Atlas lost the ICW title to Steamboat, he lost a loser-leaves-ICW match to the new champion. Vic says he'll make his title known and respected throughout the sport.

Q: Yeah, it's a classic bunch of contenders you've got going for you now. An aging Bob Orton, spaced-out Cactus Jack, some decrepit Saudi named Sheik Alfide, and a walking Stooge come to life named Curly Moe. Looks like being ICW champion is only slightly more prestigious than joining the Columbia Record Club, though it's been brought to my attention that getting approved for a club card is much more challenging than obtaining an ICW wrestler's license.

A: That's a cheap shot, and I'm getting more than a little tired of all these insults, Ellner. It is true that the ICW's talent roster is a little thinner than the WWF or NWA, but not every organization can be that big. That will change in a hurry with me as champion. Instead of ducking all the challengers like Atlas did, I've already put out a message to every wrestler in this sport: If you think you can beat me, then come to the ICW and I'll give you a match. No questions asked! I'll take on so many different kinds of wrestlers that soon the ICW belt will be as prestigious as any belt anywhere. So put that in your pipe and smoke it, Ellner.

Q: I also understand that you've got a little unfinished business other than defending your singles belt. It seems that Tony Rumble orchestrated an attack on you a few months ago that was a little hair-raising. The Undertakers attacked you and put hair remover all over your noggin, and it was one of the funniest things I've ever seen. I'm surprised you don't look more like

Bill Apter at this point.

A: Your constant putdowns of bald folks are lost on me, Eddie. The Undertakers are exactly the kind of people I talk about when I refer to unworthy champions. Sure, they've managed to hold on to their ICW tag belts for a long time, but they only manage to do it because Rumble constantly interferes for them. You *are* right about one thing, though: I'd love to drive them out of this sport. What business does hair remover have anywhere around a wrestling ring? They're big and strong, but they're also pretty ridiculous. If the ICW bylaws allow it, I'd like to find a good partner and take those tag team belts from Henchman and Punisher. They're so fat that the belts don't even fit around their waists, anyway.

Q: You are quite a stickler for physical conditioning, aren't you? You'll never hear me put you down for that. I understand you once managed Steamboat's Gym in Charlotte, and it seems your knowledge for staying fit has paid off, because there's barely an ounce of fat on your body.

A: Wow, a compliment from Eddie Ellner! Yes, I try to stay in the best condition that I can, because I know that if I let up for a minute, someone will try to take advantage of me. But that just goes along with the mental approach that I talked about earlier. If your mind and body work as one, there's nothing you can't accomplish.

Q: Do you harbor any thoughts of moving on to a larger federation? It seems like the NWA and WWF are always seeking out pretty boys like you.

A: Not yet, Ellner. I'm not going anywhere until I make the ICW the hottest federation in this sport. I know you don't respect me, but I know the fans already do. I'm not stopping until *everybody* in this sport knows who I am. Then I'll feel that I've really made my mark. □

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Wrestler SPOT LIGHTS...

Every month, *The Wrestler* will comb through its extensive photo files and shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. We'll present unforgettable highlights in the action-packed careers of the sport's greatest stars, culled from the most extensive photographic archives anywhere in the wrestling world!

SGT. SLAUGHTER

SOME FANS HATE him. Others hail him as a hero. But one fact is abundantly clear: There's never been a wrestler who embraces the United States more than Sgt. Slaughter.

Perhaps Slaughter loves his country ***too*** *much. This former Marine drill instructor has now returned to rule-breaking. He's even hired a new manager, Gen. Adnan from Iraq, to aid him in his WWF battles.*

Slaughter's new goal? Ending the career of Nikolai Volkoff, the formerly hated Russian who now professes his love for America. Slaughter doesn't believe Volkoff's new passion for the U.S. is sincere, and insists that anyone who falls for Volkoff's patriotism has "gone soft." In response, most fans have changed their opinions about Slaughter, who for years has been among the most popular men in the sport.

In fact, Slaughter's suddenly violent demeanor recalls his attitude in 1977, when he began his career as a rule-breaker. By 1980, the 310-pound brawler was in the WWF, engaging in classic matches against then-WWF World champion Bob Backlund, Andre the Giant, and Bruno Sammartino. After failing to capture the WWF title, Slaughter moved on to the NWA, where his luck got better: He captured the U.S. title twice, in 1981 and 1982.

From there, Slaughter's xenophobic ramblings only got worse. He formed his "Cobra Corps," with one of the first inductees being young Don Kernodle. Slaughter and Kernodle won a tournament to become NWA World tag team champions in September 1982, and held the belts until they were defeated by Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood in March 1983. After that loss, Slaughter packed his bags and headed back to the WWF.

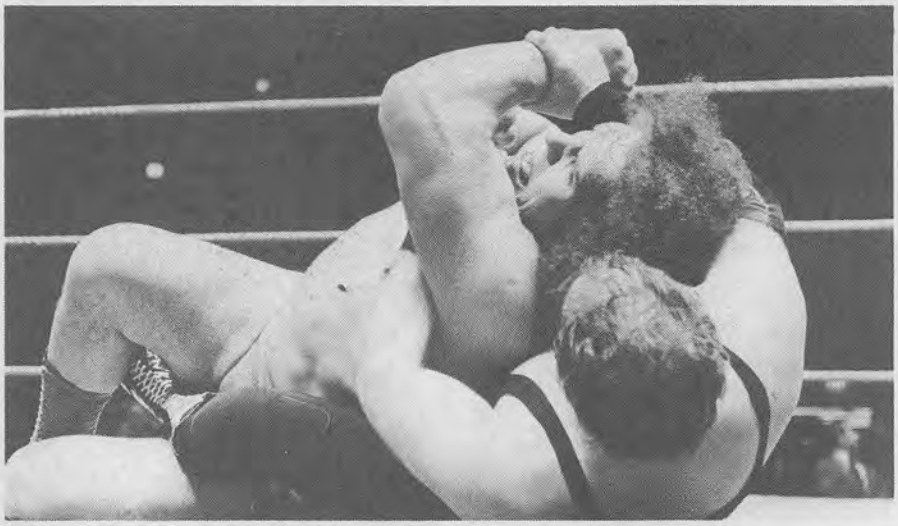
Sgt. Slaughter is convinced that America is, in his words, "going soft," but he hasn't been able to persuade the majority of the fans of that.

Slaughter continued to be hated by the fans for his uncompromisingly brutal tactics. But in late 1983, an incident occurred that would change Slaughter's life for the next seven years. After a televised match, Slaughter was trying to make his way back to the dressing room when he met up with Iran's Iron Sheik, who refused to move out of Slaughter's way. Neither one would budge, and soon these men were engaging in one of the bloodiest wars in WWF history—with the fans firmly on Slaughter's side.

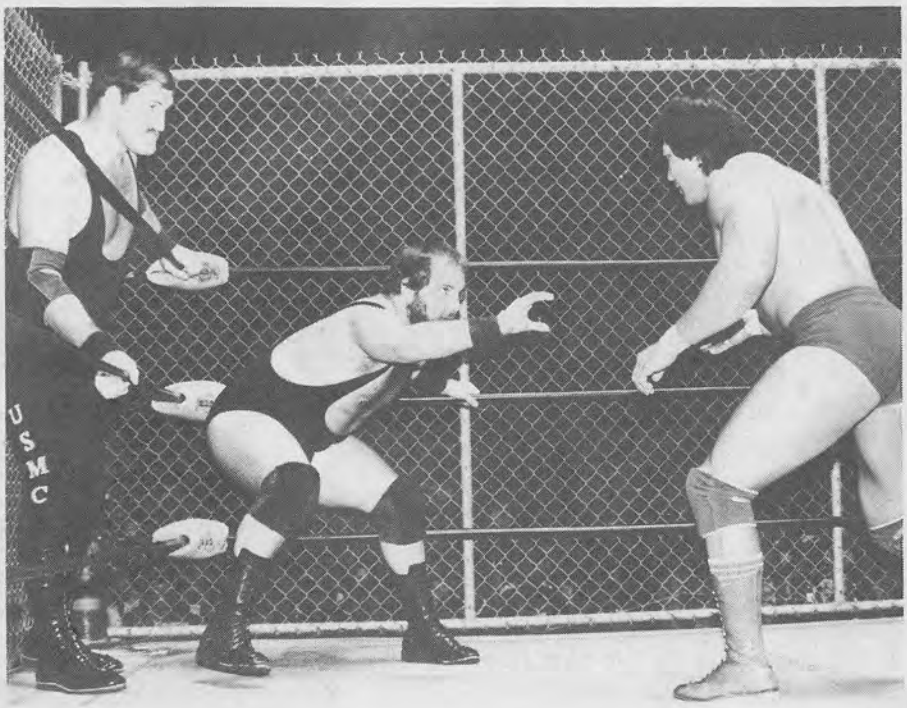
Slaughter remained popular as he moved on to the AWA, where he captured the Americas title from Larry Zbyszko in 1985. Slaughter then became a vagabond for the next three years, wrestling in smaller federations like the NWF and IWA, but never losing his vast fan following. When Slaughter returned to the AWA in 1988, he engaged in feuds with anti-American forces like Col. DeBeers, Soldat Ustinov, and Teijho Khan.

Slaughter remained in the AWA until this past summer, when he decided to return to the WWF. ***The Wrestler*** *is proud to present this photographic look at a grappler who never fails to stir up controversy wherever he goes.* □

May 1984: Sarge's feud with The Iron Sheik was the hottest in the WWF for months (above left). June 1985: Slaughter defeated Larry Zbyszko to win the Americas title (above right).



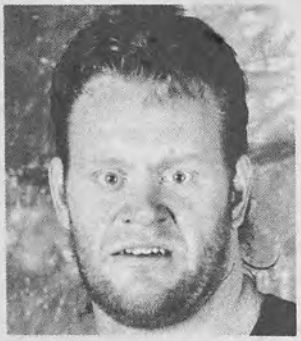
October 1984: Six years ago, Sarge was the good guy and Nikolai Volkoff thumbed his nose at the U.S. (below). March 1983: Slaughter and Don Kernodle lost the NWA World tag team title to Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood (right).



February 1981: Slaughter takes Andre the Giant off his feet (left). December 1985: Sarge received a shot at Ric Flair's NWA World title (above).

X-RAY

THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES



MARK CALLOUS

Each month THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and- coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal

At 6'8", Mark Callous (slamming Hawk) would be the tallest man in many federations, but in the NWA he is just one of several big men. Some members of the "X-Ray" panel think Callous doesn't need a manager like Paul E. Dangerously.

CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"From The Skyscrapers to his new role as Paul E. Dangerously's main man, there's only one way to describe this Callous guy: He's incredible! He reminds me of Stan Stasiak, the old-timer who my friend The Grand Wizard used to manage. Callous throws a heartpunch, and that's the same finisher that Stasiak used to use. But the biggest thing that scares me about Callous, daddy, is his mean streak. He's evil, nasty, ugly, and evil through and through, I tell ya!"

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.

KILLER KOWALSKI

"Finally, there's a youngster in the NWA who isn't afraid to get down and dirty whenever he feels like it. Callous reminds me a little bit of myself during my early years, because he's naturally big and constantly uses his size to his advantage. He's also getting some good advice from Paul E. Dangerously, who has one of the most brilliant minds in the sport. Just give this kid some time. At 6'8", he's capable of busting up bodies like nobody else ever has."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rule-breakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachussetts.

PROF. TORU TANAKA

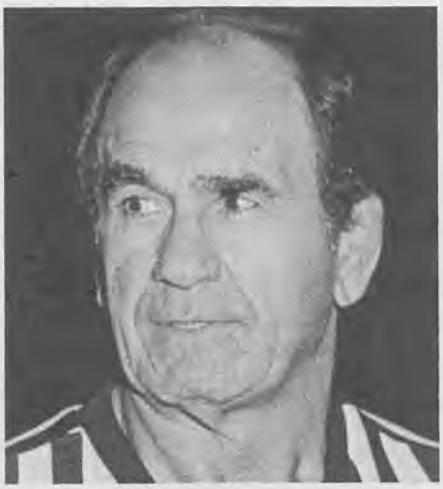
"About eight months ago, Callous made a tour of Japan. I did not give him much of a chance to succeed, but he proved me wrong. He impressed many people in the Orient with his skills in walking atop the ring ropes. In many ways, he is similar to the man known as The Spoiler, who was a legend in Singapore and Japan. Callous has the raw ability to become as great as Spoiler, but he still has a long way to go before he can be truly be considered a major star."

Prof. Tanaka, a three-time co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji, is currently a successful actor.

LARRY HENNIG

"I can't really put my finger on what's wrong with Callous, but he really should have gone a lot farther than he has. When he teamed with Dan Spivey, it seemed like The Skyscrapers would be the cream of the NWA tag teams. Now that he's wrestling on his own, Callous doesn't seem to have any real goal. Sure, he received some shots at Lex Luger's U.S. title, but he fell out of contention very quickly. The boy needs a bigger killer instinct, if you ask me."

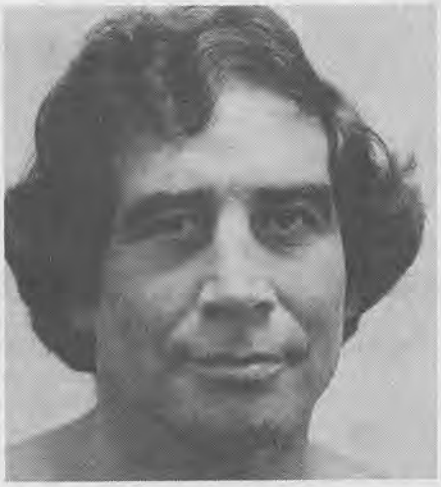
Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



LOU THESZ

"Like they say in basketball, you can't coach height. Callous has been blessed with size, and his build is perfect for withstanding the rigors of lengthy matches. His progression into the NWA's top 10 seems only natural, since he improves with every match. The only drawback is that it seems Callous can't think on his own. In the past six months, his contract was shuttled from Teddy Long to Dangerously, but what good has either of those guys done him?"

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-around wrestler in history.



JACK BRISCO

"The NWA is truly land of the giants, isn't it? In that federation, there's the 6'8" Mark Callous, 6'8" Sid Vicious, and the incredible 7'7" El Gigante. I think I see what Callous' problem is right there. In many other federations, he'd be the biggest man, but in the NWA he's just one of many monsters. Callous seems intent on proving he's the best big man in the sport, but he'd be better off staying within himself and developing his own personal style."

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.

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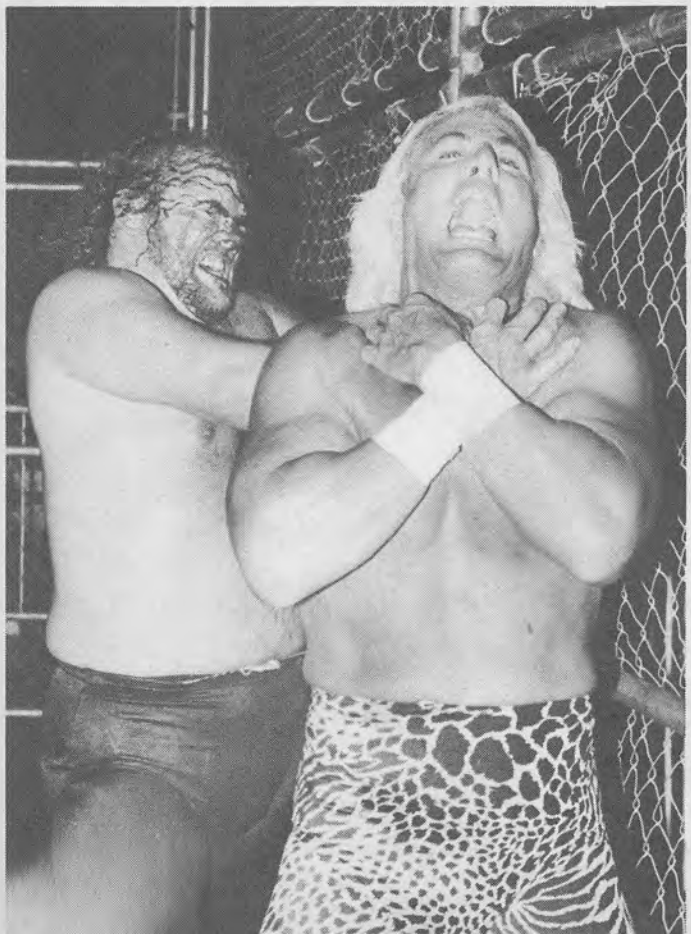
BATS, BABES, & BLOOD



MEMPHIS GANGWAR!

By Matt Brock

Photos by Scott George

Memphis has been the site of some of the most vicious feuds in wrestling history, but there's never been anything like this. The Mid-South Coliseum ring has been transformed into a battleground of unparalleled violence!

BATS! WE MEAN baseball bats, but not the kind that Ruth, Aaron, and DiMaggio swung. Big bats. Aluminum bats. The kind with a big, fat sweet spot. The kind that even a 95-mile-per-hour fastball in on the fists can't break.

Babes! We mean beautiful women. Vicious women. Women with men on their minds. Women with revenge on their minds, too. Tessa. Dirty White Girl. Dangerous women.

Blood! We mean the blood of men, flowing freely from their veins burst wide-open by the hatred of their enemies. The blood of Jerry Lawler, Austin Idol, Bill Dundee, Tom Burton, Doug Gilbert, Eddie Gilbert, "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony, and John Tatum. The blood of a photographer named Sam Lowe, a promoter named Jerry Jarrett, and a matchmaker named Eddie Marlin.

Gang war! We mean the kind that can only erupt in Memphis when a bunch of bad men and a few bad women get caught up in a feud so vicious, so brutal, so out-of-control, that *nobody* can stop it.

This ain't a pretty story.

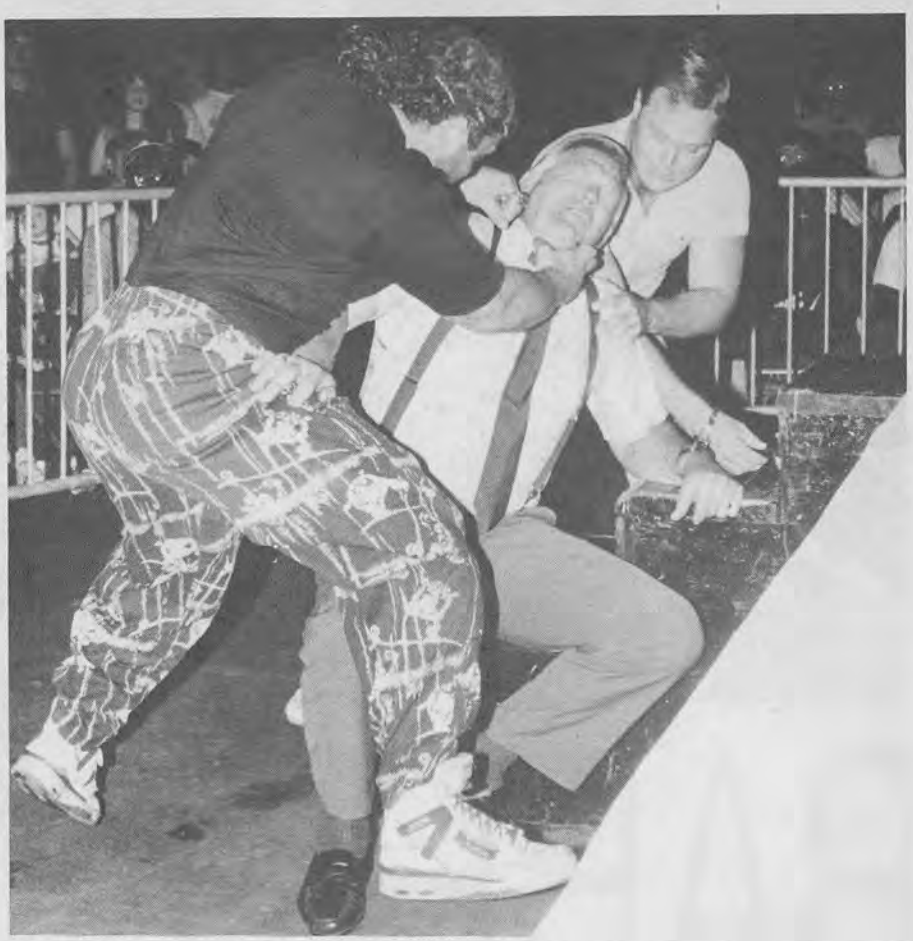
It takes place in Memphis on a series of hot, muggy Monday nights, the kind that only Tennessee in summertime can create.

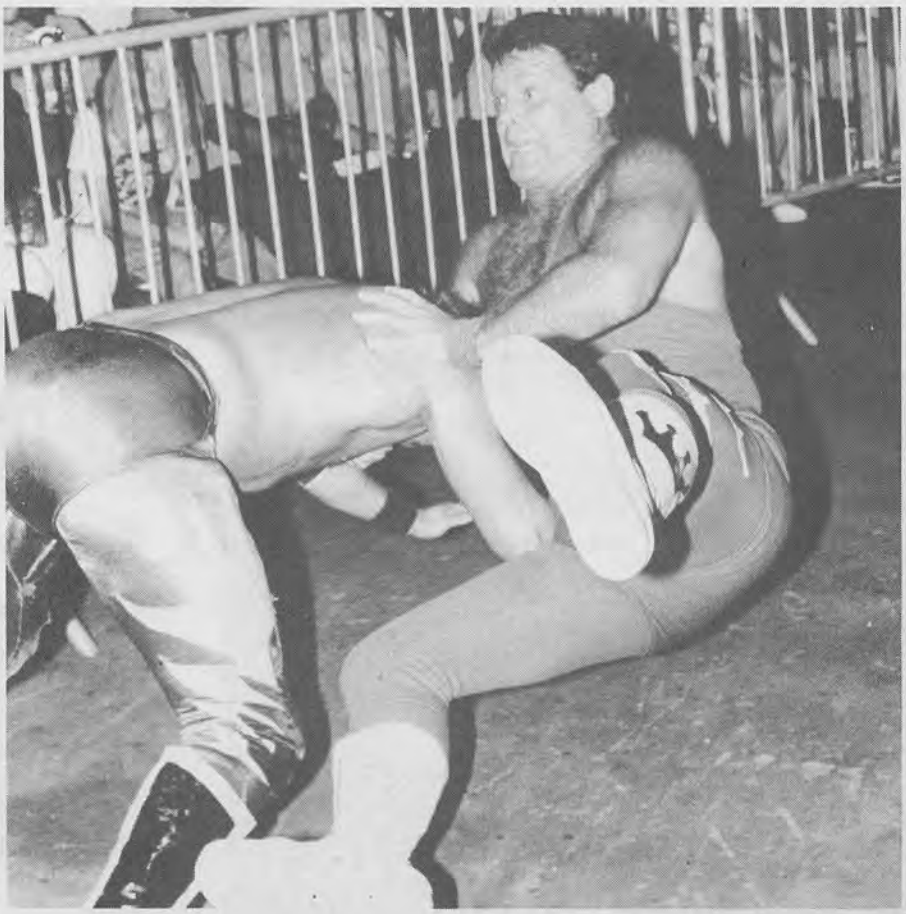
July 23: Lawler and Dundee vs. Eddie Gilbert and Tony Anthony in a Texas death match. To prevent interference, Burton, Tessa, and Dirty White Girl are handcuffed to the ringposts. Lawler brings baseball bats into the ring. All hell breaks loose.

"It ain't nice gettin' hit by a baseball bat," Anthony admits. "But I'd take five hits to get one at Lawler."

Dundee and Lawler are the winners. Lawler uncuffs Tessa. Tessa and White Girl start going at it. Before long, everybody's going at it, and Jeff Jarrett has to risk life and limb to even the score.

July 30: Sam Lowe, respected wrestling photographer, suddenly becomes one of the most hated men in Memphis when he climbs onto the ring apron and hits Lawler over





Tom Burton attacks matchmaker Eddie Marlin to free Sam Lowe from being handcuffed to Marlin (above). Jerry Lawler DDT's Eddie Gilbert out on the arena floor (below). Gilbert got this feud going when he returned to Memphis after a lengthy absence.

The women are as intense as the men in this war: Dirty White Girl and Tessa have had a series of wild contests that culminated with Tessa losing a loser-leaves-town match.

the head with his camera. Thanks to Lowe, Eddie Gilbert and Anthony beat Lawler and Dundee. Tessa and White Girl again get involved. Baseball bats are flying. Lowe, who should be taking pictures, is instead taking shots. He also takes a shot in the elbow when Lawler flings a baseball bat his way.

"Things are clearly out of control," Marlin admits.

August 6: Idol returns to the Mid-South Coliseum and teams with Dundee and Lawler in a stretcher match against Eddie Gilbert, Anthony, and Tatum.

The stretcher is necessary.

Jerry Jarrett orders Lowe handcuffed to Marlin.

"A waste of time," Lowe declares.

Indeed.

The match quickly rages out of control. All six men are in the ring. Burton runs to ringside and smashes Marlin, then releases Lowe. Lowe and Burton double-piledrive Idol. The ref calls for the stretcher. Idol is taken away. The others don't notice. The battle continues.

"These maniacs will stop for nothing, even a seriously injured man," Jerry Jarrett says sadly.

(Continued on page 62)

REVEALED!

THE NWA'S PLOT TO *Lasso* STAN HANSEN!

By Eddie Ellner

STAN HANSEN HAS always prided himself on his independence. For years, he refused to sign contracts with major federations. He refused to restrict himself to a single area for too long a period of time. He went where he wanted, when he wanted.

He is a hero in Japan, where such free agency is applauded. But in the United States, federation officials secretly talked of their unwillingness to deal with Hansen. He couldn't—and wouldn't—be chained. He refused to conform.

"Nobody tells me what to do!" Hansen said. "When I let people dictate my schedule, I'm letting them dictate how much money I can make. Bruiser Brody was the same way."

Such talk makes enemies in

Photos by Brad McFarlin

Stan "The Lariat" Hansen has always been an independent man, but he made the mistake of giving up his independence for a contract with a major federation. Now he's paying the price!

Stan Hansen says that although he put Tommy Rich out of action, he's no rougher than The Four Horsemen—but he's a target of officials.

wrestling, and Hansen is paying the price for it.

For the past several months, Hansen has made his home in the NWA. The "Bad Man From Borger's" return brought back fans who long for the good ol' days of rugged men and rugged matches.

But NWA officials are not as pleased. Since Hansen's return, they have fined and suspended him several times. Most recently, he was suspended for 30 days for hitting NWA referee Pee Wee Anderson after a bout with Tommy Rich.

Manhandling a referee is certainly a heinous crime. Yet when The Four Horsemen attacked Lex Luger and Sting in separate parking lot incidents, the NWA merely slapped them on the wrists. Dozens of similar attacks have gone unpunished.

The federation clearly has two sets of rules: one for Hansen and one for everyone else.

"I don't know why they said they wanted me to wrestle here when they really didn't want me to wrestle here," Hansen growled. "I think it was a trap. They drew me in, finally got me to sign a contract, then put the digs to me. Well, this is the last contract *I'll* ever sign!"

Hansen looks around and sees referees getting hit all over the place. He sees four-on-one attacks that violate more than just the rules of the sport.

"They violate the spirit, too," Hansen said. "When I want somebody's hide, I do it by myself with my own two hands. I don't depend on my friends to do the job for me."

The Horsemen violate Hansen's somewhat deluded sense of decency. And the NWA is violating his sense of fair play.

"I sat down with those clowns and asked for an explanation," Hansen said. "They said they couldn't allow refs to get hit. But when was the last time somebody got a 30-day suspension for hitting a referee? I'm being rooked!"

Meanwhile, Hansen continues to

(Continued on page 64)

The return of Hulk Hogan made it a major event. Add two stunning upsets for the WWF World tag team and Intercontinental titles, and you have a night of incredible action and excitement. In this special section, *The Wrestler* gives you with a ringside seat for the hottest August night ever:

The fans couldn't wait for it. The wrestlers were pumped by it. Philadelphia braced for it. The third annual SummerSlam on August 27 turned the City of Brotherly Love into anything but.

The Spectrum came alive for 10 exciting matchups, including one of the most important moments of the year: Hulk Hogan's return to action against the massive Earthquake, the man who had put him out of action for nearly four months earlier. Hogan's brilliant showing against his huge adversary will long be remembered as yet another triumphant chapter of the "Hulkster's" remarkable career.

The Ultimate Warrior's warriors were in full force at SummerSlam '90 in Philadelphia.

But Hogan's return wasn't the only excitement at SummerSlam—not by a longshot! WWF World champion The Ultimate Warrior battled Rick Rude in a violent steel cage match. Kerry Von Erich shocked the mat world by capturing the Intercontinental title from an overconfident Curt Hennig. And The Hart Foundation recaptured the WWF World tag team title from Demolition in a match marred by a wild melee featuring The Legion of Doom.

If you missed this outstanding card on pay-per-view television, don't despair. The Wrestler was there to provide you with in-depth coverage of the hottest event of the summer: SummerSlam '90!

The Rockers vs. Power & Glory: Hercules and Paul Roma shocked Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty by attacking them outside the ring before the opening bell. Michaels' right knee was injured, and he never made it into the ring to tag Jannetty during the match. In an incredible finish, Hercules superplexed Jannetty from the top rope, which was immediately followed by a Roma flying bodypress from the top turnbuckle. Time of match: 6:00.

Curt Hennig vs. Kerry Von Erich: Intercontinental champion "Mr. Perfect' came into this match supremely confident, as Von Erich had only been in the WWF a few weeks by the time SummerSlam rolled around. In fact, it may have been Hennig's arrogance that spelled his demise. Hennig had Von Erich locked in a sleeperhold for an extended period, and it looked as if Kerry would be rendered unconscious. For some reason, though, Hennig released the sleeper and began pounding Von Erich in the corner. When Hennig turned around to confer with manager Bobby Heenan, Von Erich monkey-flipped Hennig toward the top turnbuckle, and Hennig's head struck the iron ringpost. When Hennig rebounded, Von Erich caught him in a claw, spun around, and smashed Hennig with a "tornado punch" to the jaw. Von Erich covered Hennig for the pin and the title. Time of match: 5:15.

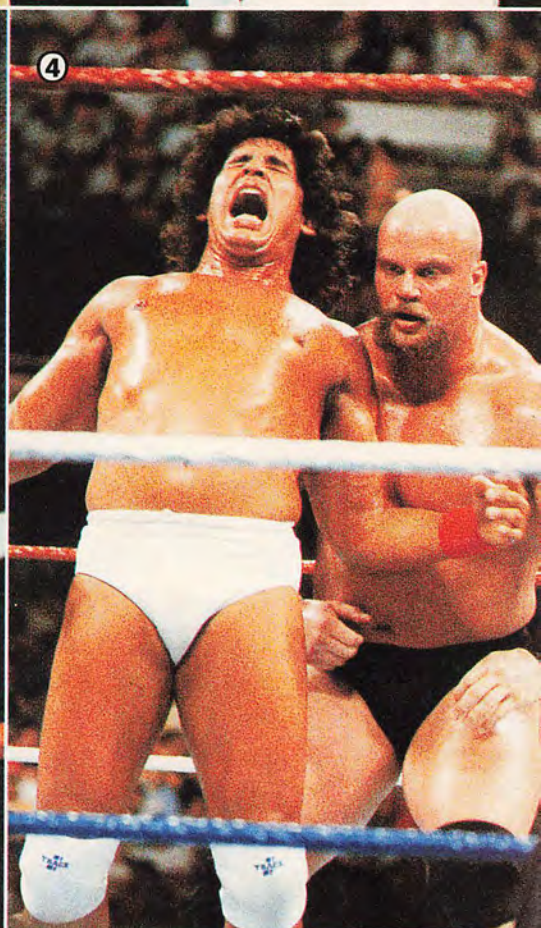
Sensational Sherri vs. Sapphire: Where was Sapphire? She was reported as arriving at the Spectrum early in the afternoon, but by match time she was nowhere to be found. Sapphire would show up in an unexpected place later, but she lost this scheduled bout against Randy Savage's manager by forfeit.

The Warlord vs. Tito Santana: Santana was clearly overpowered throughout this one-sided bout. Since joining in Slick's camp, Warlord has been one of the WWF's most improved wrestlers, and he proved it by pinning Santana following a massive powerslam. Time of match: 5:28.

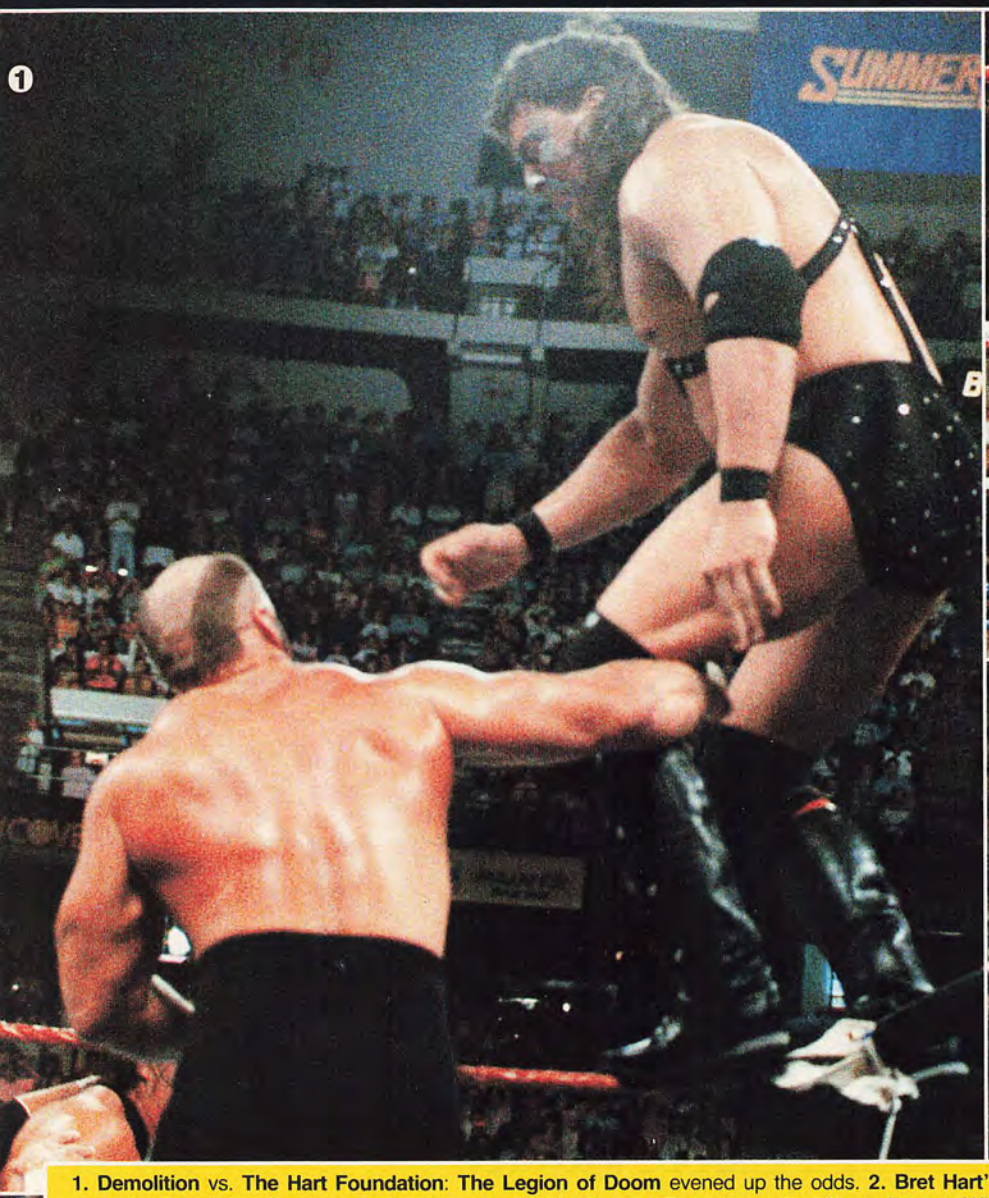
Demolition vs. The Hart Foundation: Only two of the three members of WWF World tag team champs Demolition were allowed at ringside. Crush and Smash wrestled for

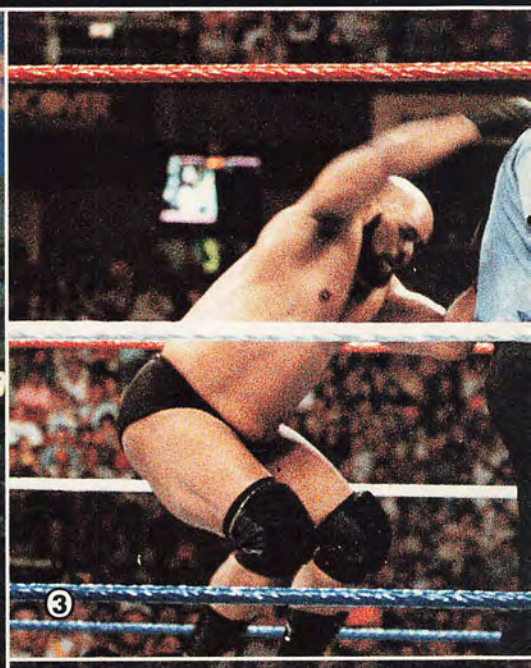
(Continued on page 39)

SUMMERSLAM '90



1. Power & Glory vs. **The Rockers**: **Marty Jannetty** paid the price for going it alone. **2. Curt Hennig** vs. **Kerry Von Erich**: A mere sleeperhold (inset) couldn't stop the "Texas Tornado." **3. Sensational Sherri** (scarier than ever) never got the chance to wrestle **Sapphire**. **4. Warlord** easily overpowered **Tito Santana**.





1. Demolition vs. **The Hart Foundation**: **The Legion of Doom** evened up the odds. **2. Bret Hart's** cover gave the Foundation their second World tag team title. **3. Jake Roberts** vs. **Bad News Brown**: When **Big Bossman** disqualified him, Brown couldn't take the bad news. **4. Sgt. Slaughter** incited the crowd with his peculiar brand of patriotism. **5. Hacksaw Duggan** & **Nikolai Volkoff** derailed **The Orient Express**. **6. Randy Savage** vs. **Dusty Rhodes**: Dusty was worried about **Sapphire**, and it showed.

SUMMERSLAM '90

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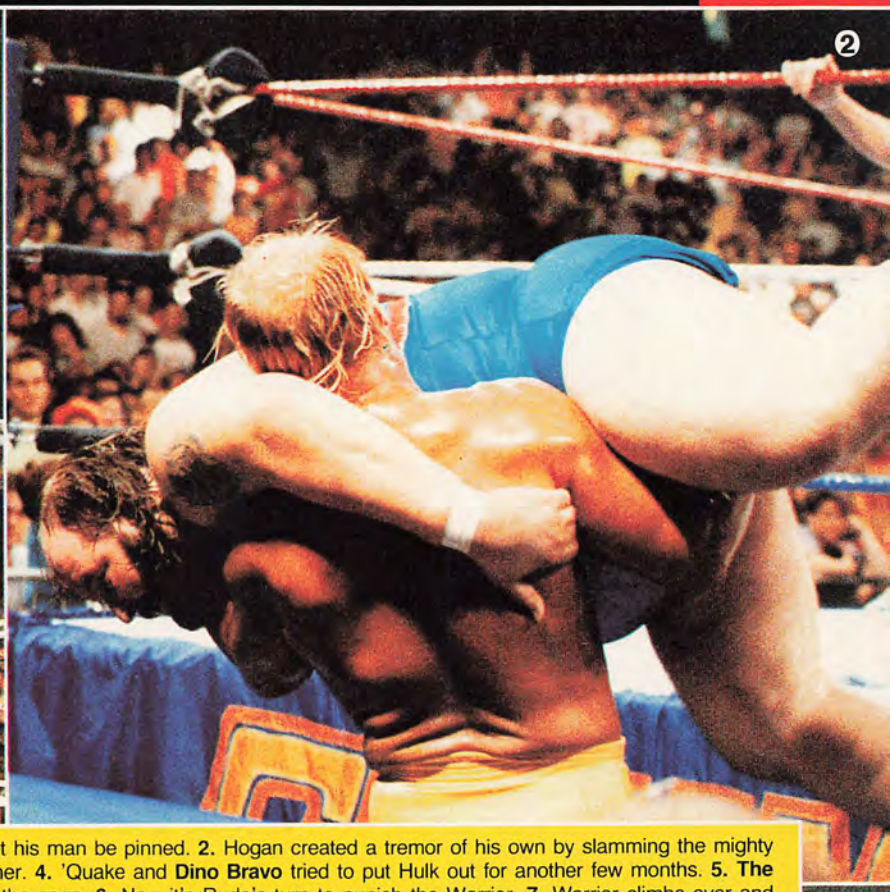
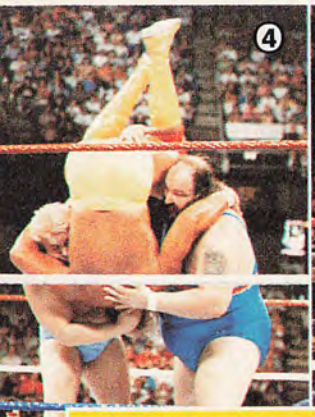
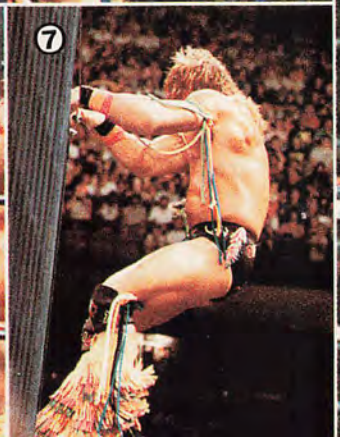
SUMMERSLAM '90





1. Hulk Hogan vs. **Earthquake: Jimmy Hart** refused to let his man be pinned. **2.** Hogan created a tremor of his own by slamming the mighty 'Quake. **3.** Good thing Hulk had **Big Bossman** in his corner. **4.** 'Quake and **Dino Bravo** tried to put Hulk out for another few months. **5. The Ultimate Warrior** vs. **Rick Rude**: Warrior was enraged in the cage. **6.** Now it's Rude's turn to punish the Warrior. **7.** Warrior climbs over and out for a convincing victory. **8.** It was a rough night for the **Bobby Heenan** family—and for Heenan himself.



SUMMERSLAM

(Continued from page 34)

Bret Hart was determined to show Smash that The Hart Foundation could win the World tag team title again. The Harts did it, but they needed The Legion of Doom's help.

their team against Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart. But as it turned out, Ax would play a significant role in the outcome of the match, as would The Legion of Doom.

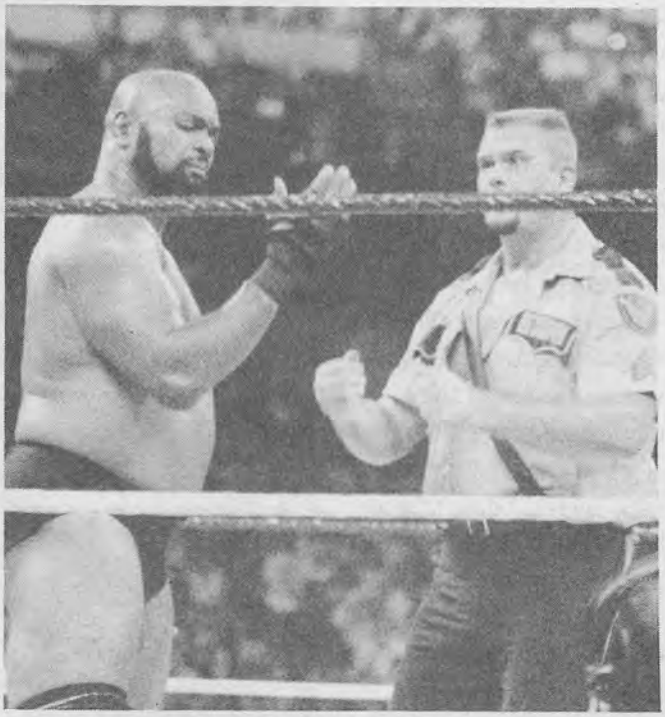
In the first stanza of the best-of-three-falls bout, Crush pinned Hart at the 6:09 mark after delivering an elbowsmash from the second rope. The second fall was halted at 9:56 when Smash was disqualified by referee Dave Hebner for preventing Hart from pinning Crush.

Between the second and third falls, Demolition hurled Hart from the ring. While Hebner was attending to Hart, Ax ran out from the dressing room and hid underneath the ring. Later, when Smash was thrown from the ring, Ax replaced him, with Smash ducking underneath the apron.

When Hart was hurled from the ring on Demolition's side, he was double-teamed by Ax and Smash. Unexpectedly, Animal and Hawk stormed to the ringside area. As Animal pulled Ax from under the ring, Crush climbed to the second rope to deliver another flying elbowsmash on Hart. Hawk climbed to the apron and punched Crush off the ropes. Smash left the ring to try to retaliate against the LOD, but that left Crush alone in the ring. Neidhart hit Crush with a flying shoulderblock from the top turnbuckle, and Hart rolled him up for the pinfall at the 14:14 mark.

Despite the disqualification in the second fall, the decision was upheld, and The Hart Foundation was given the belts.

Bad News Brown vs. Jake Roberts: Big Bossman was the special referee for this bout, but Brown and Roberts began brawling before the former



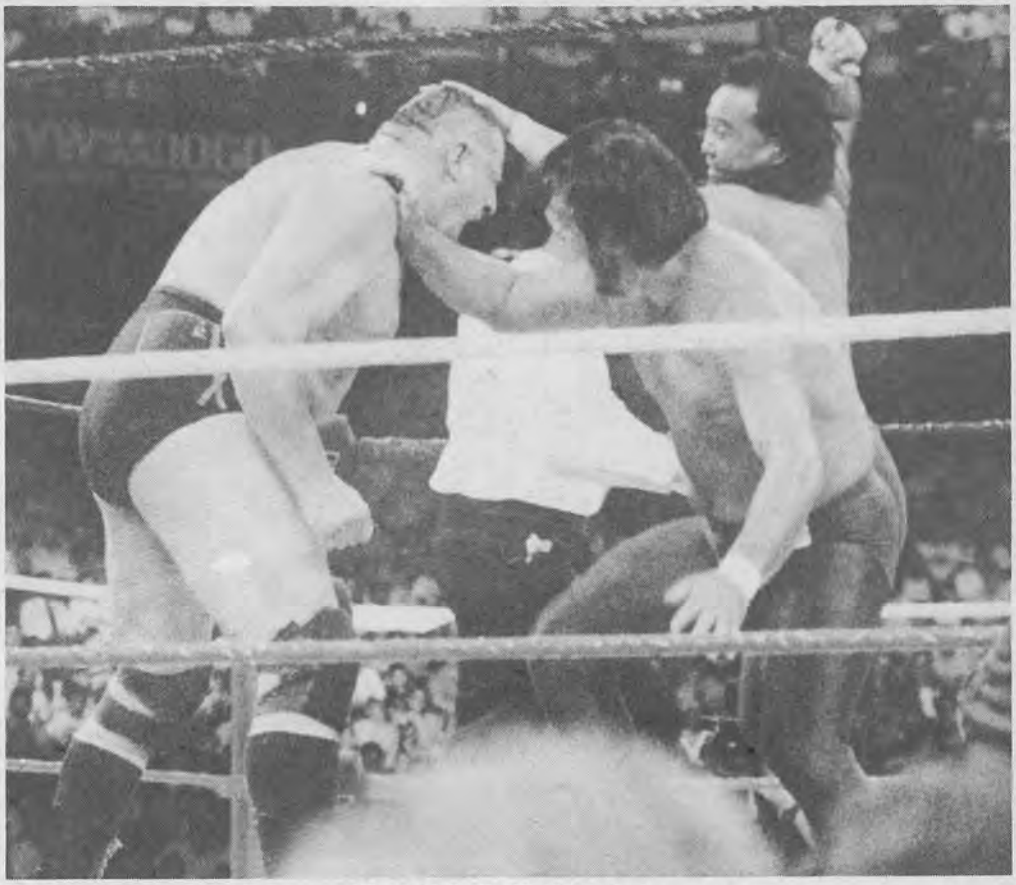
Bad News Brown wanted special referee Big Bossman to stay out of his way, but Bossman would not be intimidated.

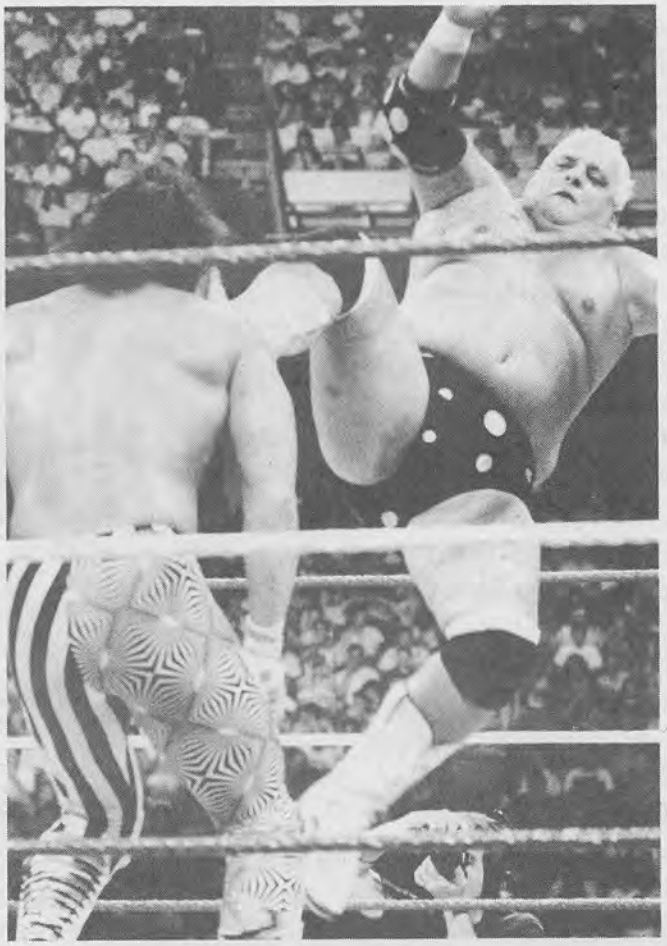
corrections officer reached the ring. Bossman eventually disqualified Brown for smashing Roberts with a chair outside the ring. After the match, Brown tried to legdrop Damian, Robert's snake, but Bossman pulled the bag out of the way. Brown then attacked Bossman, but Roberts used Damian to drive Brown away. Time of match: 4:44.

The Orient Express vs. Hacksaw Duggan & Nikolai Volkoff: Before the bell, Mr. Fuji's team attacked Duggan and Volkoff, who rebounded by catching both Akio Sato and Pat Tanaka with atomic spinecrushers. Duggan pinned Tanaka following a clothesline and a big splash. Time of match: 3:22.

Dusty Rhodes vs. Randy Savage: Rhodes was concerned about the whereabouts of Sapphire, and with good reason: Before his match with Savage began, Ted DiBiase appeared in the interview area with Sapphire and announced he had just "purchased" her services. A badly disoriented Rhodes was no match for the maniacal Savage, who clubbed Dusty in the head with Sherri's purse to score the pinfall. Time of match: 2:15.

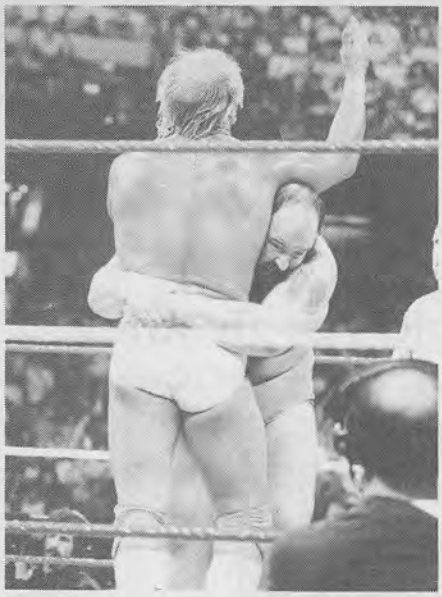
Hulk Hogan vs. Earthquake: Hogan's comeback from the rib and sternum injuries he suffered at the hands of Earthquake in May was made complete with his stirring victory over the 462-pound Canadian. But at the beginning of the match, nothing Hogan tried seemed to work as Earthquake overpowered the "Hulkster" almost at will.



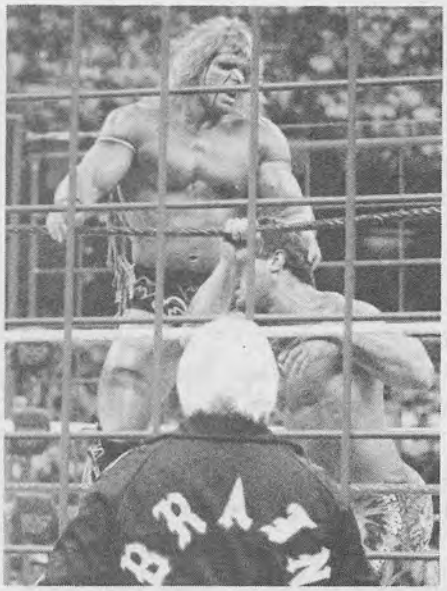


Akio Sato and Pat Tanaka pummel Nikolai Volkoff with little effect (above); they were quickly defeated by the Russian and Hacksaw Duggan. This dropkick was one of Dusty Rhodes' few successful maneuvers in a losing effort against Randy Savage (below).

It looked as if Earthquake would emerge victorious after scoring with two massive splashes to Hogan's chest, but Hogan kicked out of a pin attempt at the count of two. Three successive right hands from Earthquake had no effect on the resurgent Hogan, who landed three punches of his own, whipped Earthquake to the ropes, smashed him with a boot to the face, bodyslammed him, and covered him for an



With his bearhug (above) and splash (right), Earthquake dominated Hulk Hogan in the early going, but the "Hulkster" rallied for a countout victory.



The World championship remained in The Ultimate Warrior's possession (above left) after he turned back the challenge of Rick Rude—and Bobby Heenan (above right).

attempted pin.

Dino Bravo, at ringside for Earthquake, distracted referee Dave Hebner by climbing to the ring apron and breaking the count. Big Bossman, Hogan's second, also climbed to the apron. As Hebner attended to Bossman, Jimmy Hart ran in and smashed Hogan on the back of the head with his megaphone.

The blow did little damage to Hogan, who lifted Hart and hurled him onto Earthquake. Both men fell from the ring. As Bossman tossed Bravo from the ring, Hogan and Earthquake brawled on the other side. Earthquake held Hogan's arms as Hart charged at him with the megaphone, but Hogan ducked and the megaphone hit Earthquake's shoulder. Hogan slammed Earthquake on a ringside table, returned to the ring, and Earthquake was counted out. Time of match: 13:16.

The Ultimate Warrior vs. Rick Rude: WWF World champion Ultimate Warrior won a surprisingly one-sided steel cage match against "Ravishing" Rick Rude. The champ cut Rude early by repeatedly ramming his head into the cage, and the challenger was never able pose a serious threat after that. Warrior pummeled Rude's manager, Bobby Heenan, and moments later won the match by delivering three stunning clotheslines and a gorilla-press to Rude and then climbing out of the cage. Time of match: 10:05. □

TV OR NOT

The NWA TV title is alive . . . barely. Arn Anderson has the belt, but you would hardly know it from watching NWA broadcasts. This once-proud title has become an NWA relic, and Anderson is doing very little to change that

Photos by Scott George

By Dave Rosenbaum

PAUL ORNDORFF AND Junkyard Dog had just scored a rare victory over Arn Anderson and Barry Windham and Orndorff was in a particularly good mood.

"Drinks for all!" he shouted to a group of reporters. "Come out with me tonight, boys. I'll pay the tab!"

Victories over The Four Horsemen haven't exactly been infrequent for The Dudes With Attitudes, but Orndorff and JYD have had a particularly hard time with Windham and Anderson.

Tonight, Orndorff wanted to gloat. So he reeled off The Four Horsemen's scorecard.

"NWA World champion: Sting," Orndorff started. "U.S. champion: Lex Luger. U.S. tag team champions: The Steiners. NWA World tag team champions: Doom. Yeah, I'm not particularly proud of that last one, but better them than those damn Horsemen.

"Four-nothing, men," Orndorff concluded. "That's the score. The feared, fabulous Horsemen don't have a title to their names."

"Mr. Wonderful" wasn't particularly accurate. He was forgetting one name and one title, surprising since he had just wrestled that very man and, in fact, pinned him for the win.

Arn Anderson is the NWA TV champion. And although he's all but forgotten by the media and wrestlers themselves, he remains the Horsemen's *only* champion.

Rather than defend the TV title, Arn Anderson has spent most of his time in tag team matches against The Dudes With Attitudes.

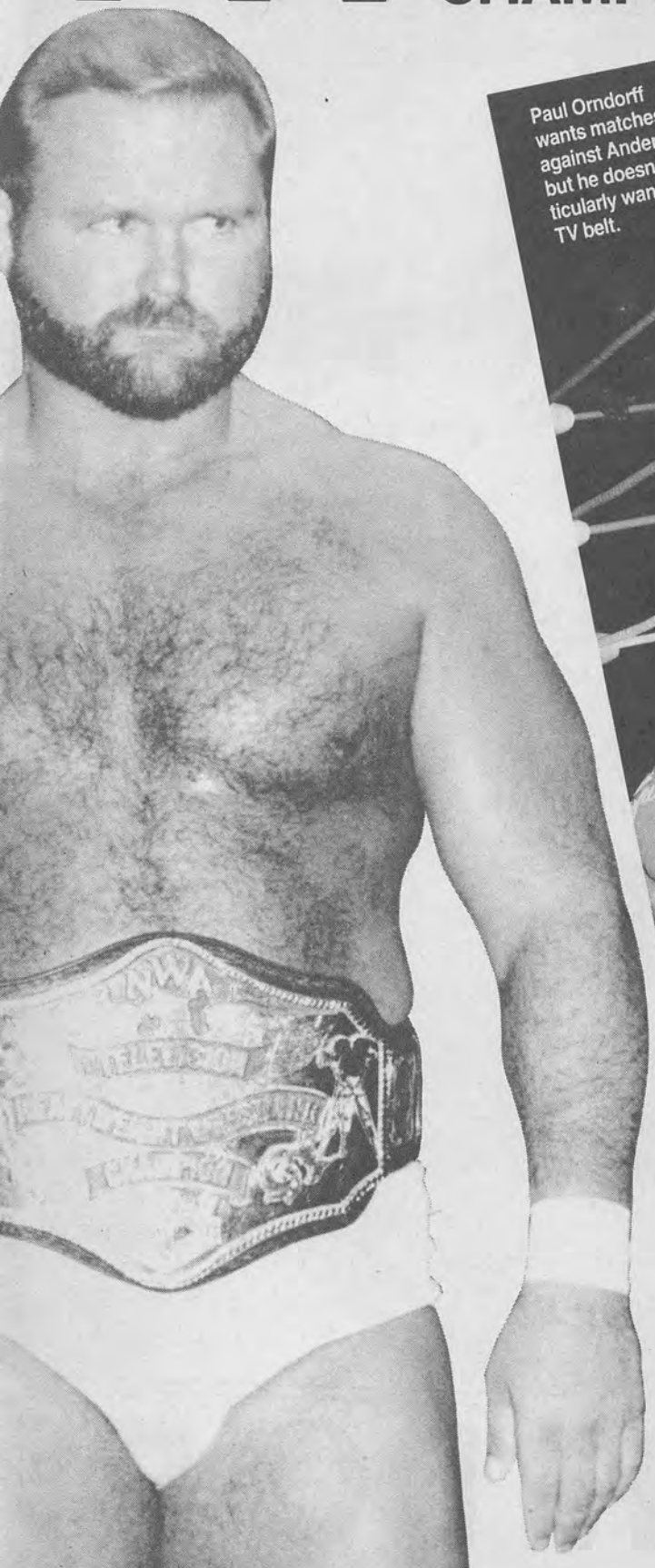
"I'm proud of that belt," Arn said. "And I plan to keep it."

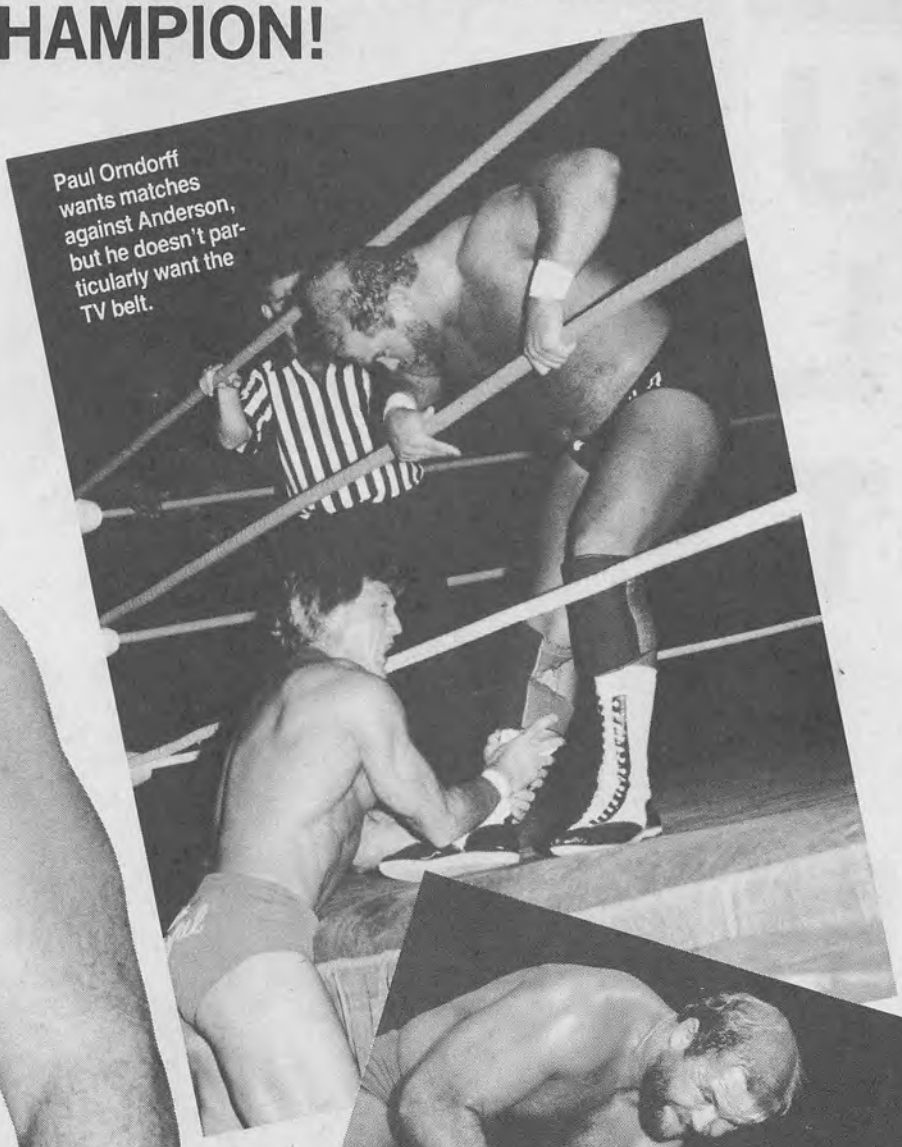
Which is, perhaps, why he never defends it.

"The NWA TV champion has a lot of leeway," NWA Vice President Jim Herd said. "It's not one of our major titles, and there are few rules

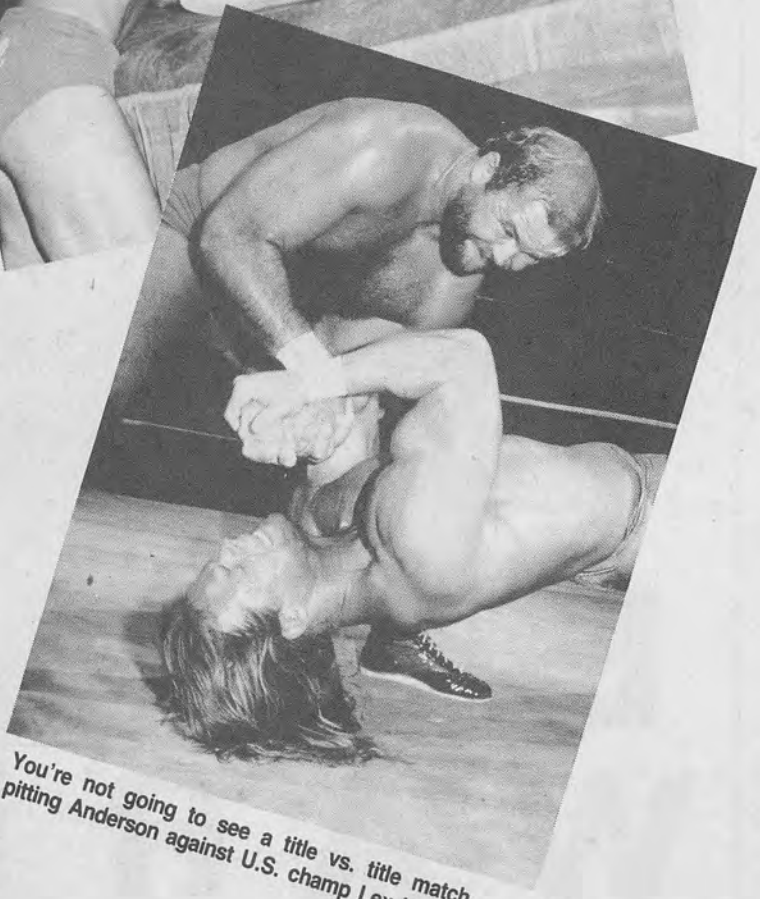
(Continued on page 66)

TV: ARN ANDERSON— THE NWA'S FORGOTTEN CHAMPION!



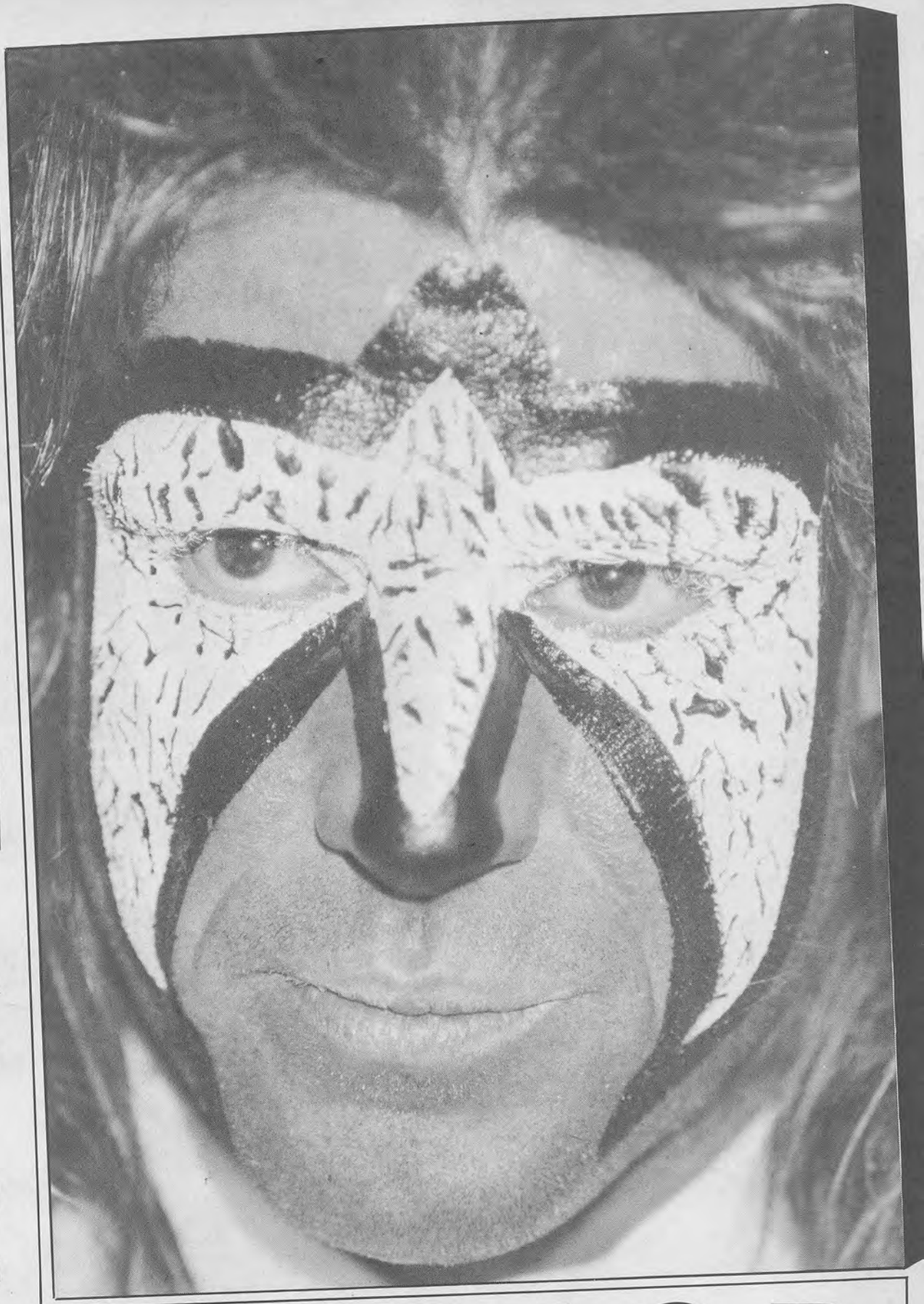


Paul Orndorff wants matches against Anderson, but he doesn't particularly want the TV belt.



You're not going to see a title vs. title match pitting Anderson against U.S. champ Lex Luger.

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR:



Rulebreaking is a part of his past, and it could well be a part of his immediate future! Slighted constantly by his own federation, The Ultimate Warrior is ready to take matters into his own hands—Hulk Hogan be damned!

By Dave Rosenbaum

MAD AS HELL AND READY TO TURN BAD!

THE FIRST CUT was surely the deepest. It came in July. The announcement that Hulk Hogan would wrestle Earthquake in the main event of SummerSlam '90 hit The Ultimate Warrior like . . . well, like the Warrior would hit some defenseless preliminary wrestler.

Here he was, the reigning WWF World champion, one of the most popular men in the sport, a great star in the midst of a tremendous winning streak, a dominant champ, a proud champ.

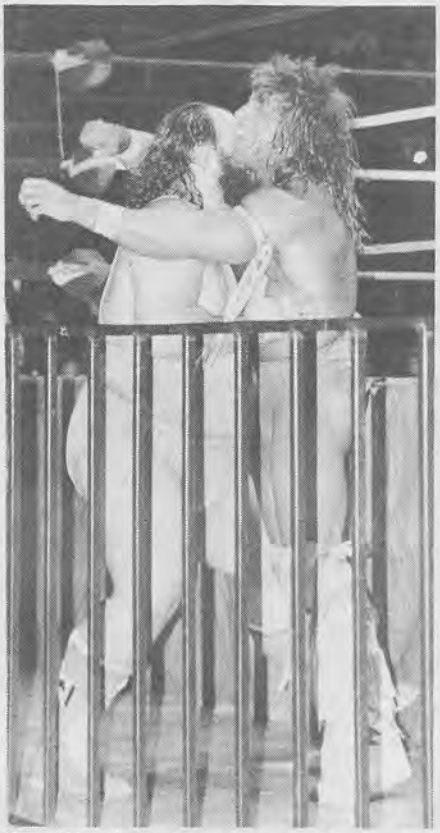
And there they were, the WWF brass, awarding the main event at one of the biggest pay-per-view cards of the year to the ex-champ, the man he beat for the title, the man who had been on the sidelines for months.

It didn't seem fair.

It wasn't fair.

Then came the rumors. The subtle rumors. They went like this:

Kerry Von Erich was brought to the WWF to protect the Warrior and save the federation's meal ticket.



Does The Ultimate Warrior need to be protected against men like Earthquake? Some people think he does.

Like the Warrior needed protection!

Like a 280-pound fearless muscleman bent on destruction needed protection from anyone!

What an insult!

The Ultimate Warrior, the WWF World champion, is being treated like some kind of second-class citizen.

It has been said that a man's past always lives inside of him. We can put aside our past deeds, but we cannot eliminate them entirely. They are always a part of us. They are ready to resurface at the slightest provocation.

But this isn't the slightest provocation, these are outright slaps in the face.

So the Warrior's past is starting to come out. The Warrior has turned mad. Now he's about to turn bad.

He started out as a rulebreaker in Rick Bassman's Powerteam U.S.A. Then he and Sting were rulebreakers under Eddie Gilbert in the UWF. He left Gilbert and continued his rulebreaking rampage in World Class. He turned good in World Class, and by the time he signed with the WWF, he had seemingly put his rulebreaking behind him for good.

Seemingly.

The brutal, uncaring side of the Warrior has started to resur-

face. Who can blame him? After all, he has been slighted. He has been embarrassed.

"The Warrior has been walking around these days with a major chip on his shoulder," said one WWF fan favorite who begged anonymity. "Just a few days ago I thought Warrior was gonna sock Kerry Von Erich in the face. Then he saw one of those SummerSlam posters and ripped it off the wall."

The Warrior was incensed that his SummerSlam '90 title defense in a cage against Rick Rude was widely considered to be the third most important match on the card (behind Hogan vs. Earthquake and Von Erich vs. Intercontinental champion Curt Hennig).

"Rude vs. Warrior is so old that nobody really cares about it anymore," WWF expert Thomas Pilliard said. "Warrior has already proven countless times that he is far superior to Rude. Even a cage match doesn't mean much."

According to several insiders, Warrior wanted to wrestle Hennig in a title vs. title match at SummerSlam. But the WWF wanted Hogan vs. Earthquake as the main event; Warrior vs. Hennig would have overshadowed Hogan's big comeback.

The WWF is an unusual federation: As long as Hogan is around, the World champion will always get second billing.

"That's something every champ after Hogan is going to have to deal with," former WWF World champion Bob Backlund said. "Hogan is probably the biggest star in wrestling history. Even without the belt, he's still Hogan. There's still Hulkamania."

It's a phenomenon great scientific wrestlers like Backlund have trouble dealing with. It's a phenomenon a massive egotist like the Warrior can't deal with at all.

After turning back Rick Rude (above) and Curt Hennig (below), Warrior may be ready for Kerry Von Erich. After all, look what he did to Kevin Von Erich (left).

At WrestleMania VI, the Warrior merely defeated Hogan when, in fact, he needed to destroy him. Only then could he have made people forget Hogan. And only by turning bad and going on a wild rampage can the Warrior grab the spotlight he feels is his just due.

The WWF can't tell the Warrior how to act. They can't stop him from becoming mad; it's too late for that.

They can't stop him from turning bad, either. It's in his history. It's in his blood.

The Warrior is ready for a change of attitude.

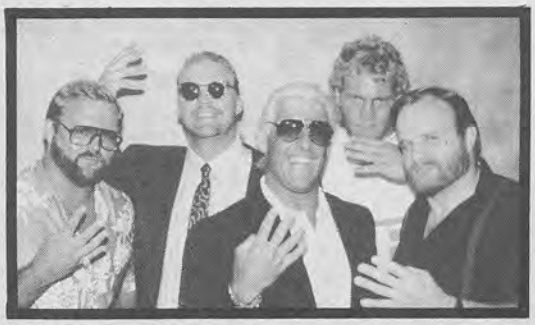
And the WWF is to blame!□

THIS MONTH IN...

Pro Wrestling Illustrated

NEW AND IMPROVED! NOW PACKED WITH FULL COLOR!

THE LEGION OF DOOM: DEMOLITION wannabes?



PWI bugs **THE FOUR HORSEMEN'S** dressing room! Shocking transcripts of a secret meeting!

PLUS . . .
FULL-COLOR foldout and career bio of NWA World champion **STING** . . . **EDDIE GILBERT'S** Memphis homecoming turns sour . . . "Press Conference" with **KERRY VON ERICH** . . . It's **DOOM'S** day as **BUTCH REED** and **RON SIMMONS** prove they're for real . . . **SGT. SLAUGHTER**—A portrait of the ugly American

All this—and much more . . .
in the December 1990 issue of
Pro Wrestling Illustrated

STILL ON SALE!

Inside Wrestling

It's Halloween Havoc horror as NWA World champion **STING** finds himself spooked by **SID VICIOUS**

Invincible again! The triumphant return of **HULK HOGAN!**

PLUS . . .
Team Challenge Series Scandal! **LARRY ZBYSZKO'S** million-dollar ripoff . . . **KERRY VON ERICH'S** WWF mission: Protect **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** . . . An exclusive "Hotseat" interview with **JIM CORNETTE**: "I held **THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS** together!"

All this—and much more . . .
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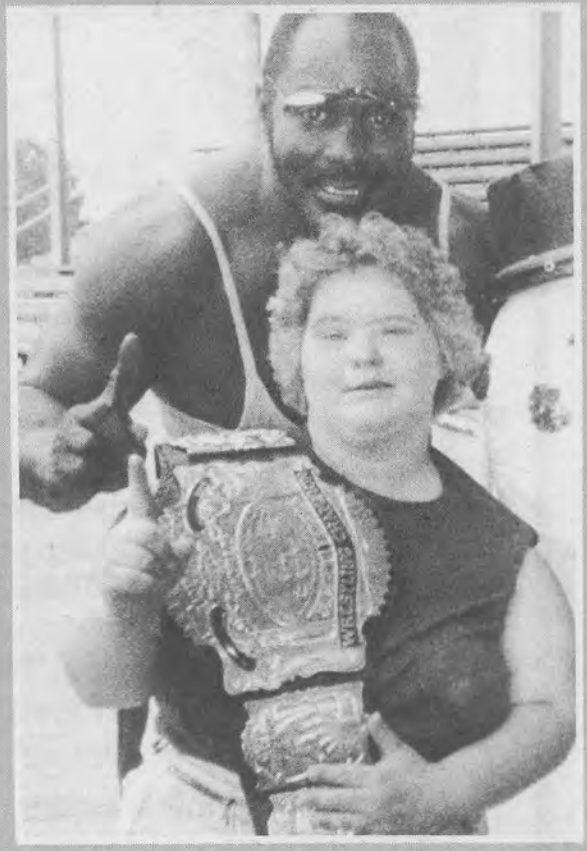
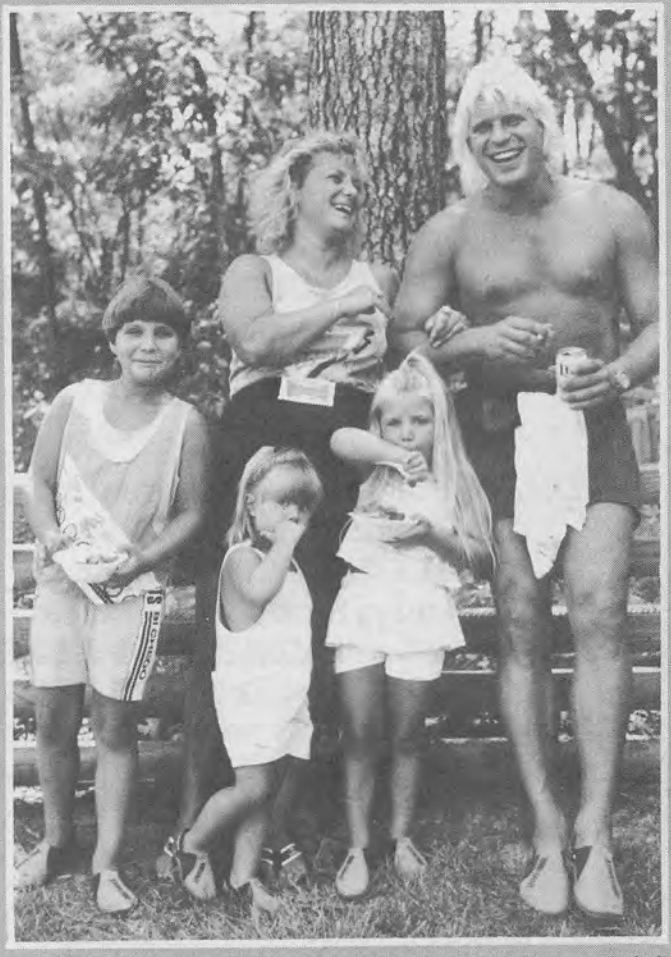
NOW ON SALE!

BEYOND THE SQUARED CIRCLE

▲ Intercontinental champion Kerry Von Erich's weight-training repertoire includes shoulder-presses.

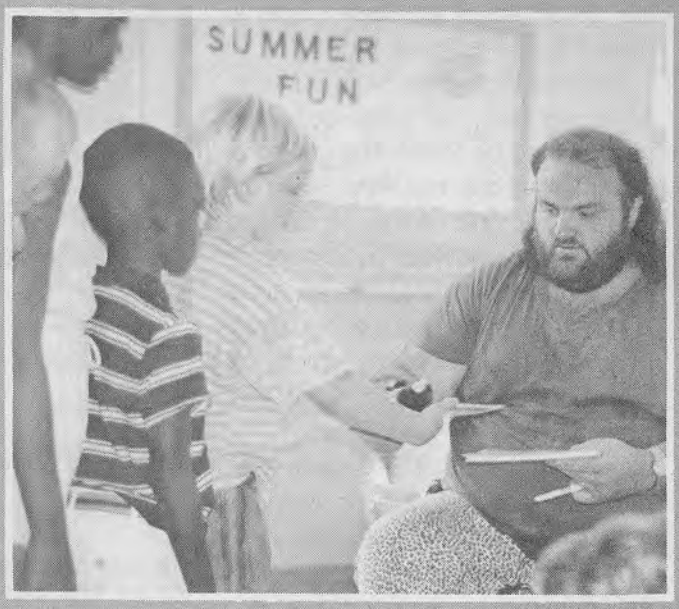


▲ The Snowman lets a lucky fan hold his USWA title belt during a recent visit to the Memphis State University day camp for handicapped youth.



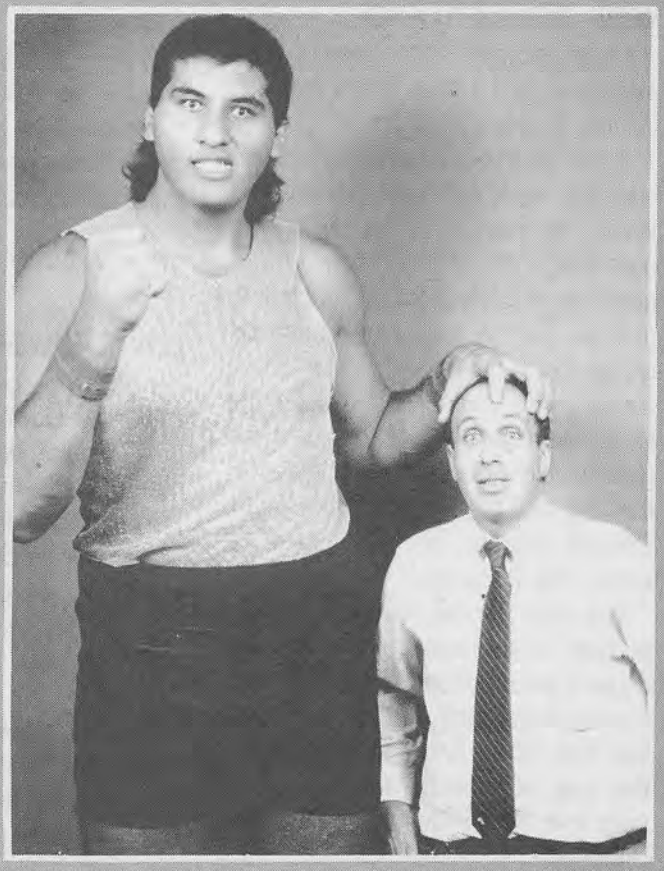
▲ "Wildfire" Tommy Rich relaxes with his wife, Peggy, and their daughters: Amanda, Chelsea, and Shanna. Tommy says the girls are especially interested in ballet.

◄ Ivan Putski, the "Polish Hammer," is on the phone making arrangements for his next series of matches.



▲ When he appeared on the *25 Kids Club* TV show in Dallas, Norman gave each child an autographed photo and a teddy bear.

▲ Michael Hayes and The Iron Sheik discuss match strategy. There's no truth to the rumor that Hayes asked Sheik to join The Freebirds.



▲ El Gigante demands that Senior Editor Bill Apter start a Spanish-language edition of *The Wrestler.*

◄ Sting meets fans and signs autographs at the "Wrestling Fans Fantasy Weekend" at the Royce Hotel in Queens, New York.

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 5)

the Great American Bash, Gigante proved to me to be a flop.

The Four Horsemen were intimidated by his size, but there really was no reason to be afraid. The guy hardly came into the ring, and when he did all he could do is shove and push! The crowd was so disappointed they started to boo. The announcers tried to cover this up by saying they were booing the Horsemen, but everyone knew exactly who they were booing.

I'm not saying that El Gigante does not have potential, but he definitely needs more training. Who knows—maybe he'll soon learn a headlock or an armbar!

JASON PANICK
Bakersfield, CA

WWF WONDERLAND

I have recently started reading your magazine, and I have some opinions I'd like to share.

As far as I'm concerned, there are only two wrestling organizations—the WWF (the best), and the NWA (second best). All of the other groups aren't worth getting out of the chair to turn on the TV. I know the other organizations have stars like Jerry Lawler, the Von Erichs, Scotty the Body, and Larry Zbyszko, but those guys would not last two minutes in the ring with the likes of Hulk Hogan, Ultimate Warrior, or my personal favorite, Big Bossman.

Bossman is the most underrated wrestler in the sport. I like him because I am a prison guard, too. I love the way he stands up for himself and law and order. And I particularly like the way he doesn't take any crap from that money-flaunting scum, Ted DiBiase!

ROGER FINCH
Ripley, TN

ROTTEN ROCK

I don't see why so many people like The Rockers. All they do is double-team! If The Rockers wrestled one-on-one with anybody, I don't think they would even win one match.

The Rockers constantly double-team, breaking the rules even more than Earthquake does, in reader Joe Peklicz' view.

WWF President Jack Tunney should be fired for even allowing these cheaters to wrestle. I think they break the rules even worse than Earthquake does!

JOE PEKLICZ
Martin's Ferry, OH

LOVE POWER

I cannot believe you gave a "Thumbs Down" to Brother Love in your September 1990 issue. This man radiates an enormous amount of love to all his friends, and this alone makes him worthy of much praise. He is not despicable! He is a man who should be highly respected and admired for all of his positive qualities.

Brother Love did every wrestling fan a favor when he assisted Jimmy Hart and Earthquake in the battering of Hulk Hogan. The spirt of Hulkamania was finally broken, as it should have been years ago. Brother Love, who is an excellent role model for the young and old alike, clearly deserves at least two "Thumbs Up"!

MISSY COVER
Cumberland, MD

RICH HERITAGE

I don't agree that Tommy Rich is looking at the crossroads of his career, as you implied in the article in the October 1990 issue ("Tommy Rich's Last Grasp For Glory—Is It For Real?"). Sure, it's been nine years since he held the NWA World title, but that doesn't mean that "Wildfire" hasn't been a quality wrestler since then.

In fact, he held the Southern Championship Wrestling title as recently as 1989, and he's rarely fallen out of the top 10 since returning to the NWA. Granted, he's been coming up a bit short as far as qualifying for a shot at the World title goes, but he's never been less than a top-notch competitor who always gives the fans their money's worth.

Rich has been paying for the fact

(Continued on page 52)

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August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich,** Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat,** Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin,** Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras,** Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel,** Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich,** Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper,** Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race,** Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes,** Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel,** Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine,** Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase,** Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant,** JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler,** Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich,** Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter,** Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors,** Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel,** Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, **Jimmy Snuka,** Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes,** Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A,** Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat,** Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair,** Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash,** Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan,** T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich,** Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter,** Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors,** Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan,** Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express,** Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage,** Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff,** Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs,** Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper,** Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament,** T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita,** DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan,** UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.,** Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage,** Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre,** Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair,** Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff,** Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase,** Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage,** Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger,** Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre,** Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan,** Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre,** Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan,** Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. **Sting,** Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. **Hogan,** Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Four Horsemen,** Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth,** Warriors, Sting.

February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts. **Luger,** Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

April 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner. **Savage,** Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

June 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Hogan vs. Savage,** Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

July 1989/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Steamboat,** Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

August 1989/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Hogan,** Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

October 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Rude. **Luger vs. Hogan,** Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

November 1989/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Rhodes,** Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

December 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jimmy Snuka. **Luger, Vicious, Muta, Sting,** Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.

January 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sid Vicious. **Ultimate,** Cornette, Ross, Kerry.

February 1990/COLOR PINUP: Bret Hart. **Lex Luger,** Hogan, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams, Woman.

April 1990/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Ric Flair,** Hennig vs. Hogan, Sting, Rockers, Lawler.

May 1990/COLOR PINUP: The Great Muta. **Hulk Hogan,** Skyscrapers, R&R Express, Piper, Embry.

June 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Hogan vs. Warrior,** R&R Express, Rhodes vs. Savage, Arn vs. Sawyer.

July 1990/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger,** Beefcake, Skyscrapers, Heenan, Saito, referees.

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 50)

that he was a five-day NWA champion for years. Give the guy a break!

AMY PETERSEN
Marietta, GA

NEEDS NO HELP

I can't believe the arrogance of your magazine. The Ultimate Warrior has been WWF World champion for several months now, but Dave Rosenbaum thinks he has all the secrets to keeping Warrior on top as champion ("Attention Ultimate Warrior: This Story Could Save Your Career!", October 1990). Well, I have news for Rosenbaum and all you other "experts": The Warrior doesn't need any advice from you!

The Warrior is a powerful and worthy World champion, and he's been turning back the challenges of Curt Hennig, Rick Rude, Haku, and everyone else he's faced. I have no doubt that he'd beat Hulk Hogan again if he got the opportunity to face him. Yet, with all he has going for him, the Warrior is the most criticized WWF champion I've ever seen.

Don't worry about the Warrior burning out. He'll still be champion long after his contenders have faded from the scene.

TAMARA ROBERTS
Zanesville, OH

The Ultimate Warrior doesn't need any advice from magazine writers, reader Tamara Roberts has decided.

A MINI-CONTROVERSY

I just got finished reading your "Q & A" with Chris Von Erich in the October 1990 issue, and my sides are still sore from laughing. If that shrimpy little punk thinks he's ever going to make it as a professional wrestler, he's even wackier than his brothers Kevin and Kerry. Chris is just too small!

Chris Von Erich may fare well against Percy Pringle, but reader Jerry Edwards thinks Chris would be crushed if he wrestled a worthy opponent.

That shrimp may have what it takes to defeat a blubbery non-wrestler like Percy Pringle, but if he ever got in the ring with anyone in the USWA top 10, he'd surely see his life pass before his eyes.

I know the Von Erichs have delusions of grandeur, but it's high time they woke up and faced reality. Chris is just too small to be a wrestler, and he keeps tempting fate by getting near the ring. I wouldn't even put the guy in the ring with a midget wrestler, let alone a full-sized professional!

JERRY EDWARDS
Ft. Worth, TX □

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Wrestling

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May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.
October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.
January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.
September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.
November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.
December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.
March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.
April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.
May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.
June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.
July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.
August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.
October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.
November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.
December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.
January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.
February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.
March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.
April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.
May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.
June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.
July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.
October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.
November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.
December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.
January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.
February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.
April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.
May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!
June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.
July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourny.
August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.
October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!
December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.
January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*, Valentine.
February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.
May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A. Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.
December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.
April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.
May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.
June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.
August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourny.
October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.
November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.
December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourny.
January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
February 1987/Road Warriors,Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.
March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.
April 1987/1986 In Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.
May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.
June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.
July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourny.
November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey.
December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card
January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.
February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.
March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.
April 1988/1987 In Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.
May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.
June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.
July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.
August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.
September 1988/Predictions Through 1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.
October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.
November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.
December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.
January 1989/Jake-Cheryl-Rude, Sting, Lawler, Flair, Savage's career.
February 1989/The Champions in '89, Duggan, Roberts, 1989 datebook
April 1989/Starrcade '88, Savage-Hogan, Funk-Mulligan, Heenan, Abdullah.
May 1989/Royal Rumble, WrestleMania, Rhodes, Lawler, Horsemen.
June 1989/Chi-Town Rumble, Hogan-Towers, R&R Express, Rougeaus.
July 1989/WrestleMania V, Sting, Steamboat, Martel vs. Rude, Embry.
August 1989/Luger & Sting, Ultimate, Flair's personal photos, Bulldogs.
September 1989/Duggan, Wrestle War, Rhodes, Flair-Steamboat, Japan.
October 1989/Great American Bash, Piper-Ventura, Savage-Hogan.
November 1989/Hogan's toughest matches, Snuka, Sting, Skyscrapers.
January 1990/Savage, Woman-Steiner, Vicious, fattest wrestlers.
February 1990/Piper, Kerry, Muta & Luger vs. Flair, Datebook.
April 1990/Starrcade '89, Roberts, Williams, Diamond, Five to watch.
May 1990/Hogan, Royal Rumble, Piper, Zbyszko-Sammartino, Nord.
June 1990/Hogan vs. Warrior, Wrestle War '90, Saito, Andre, Paul E.
July 1990/WrestleMania VI, Cornette, Sullivan vs. Norman, Ole.
August 1990/Ultimate Warrior, Blanchard, Windham, NWA returns to NY.
September 1990/Legion of Doom, Luger, Haynes, Gossett, wrestling's far side.
October 1990/Sting, Legion of Doom, Steiners, Kerry, Slaughter.
November 1990/Ultimate Warrior, Great American Bash, Sting, Muta.

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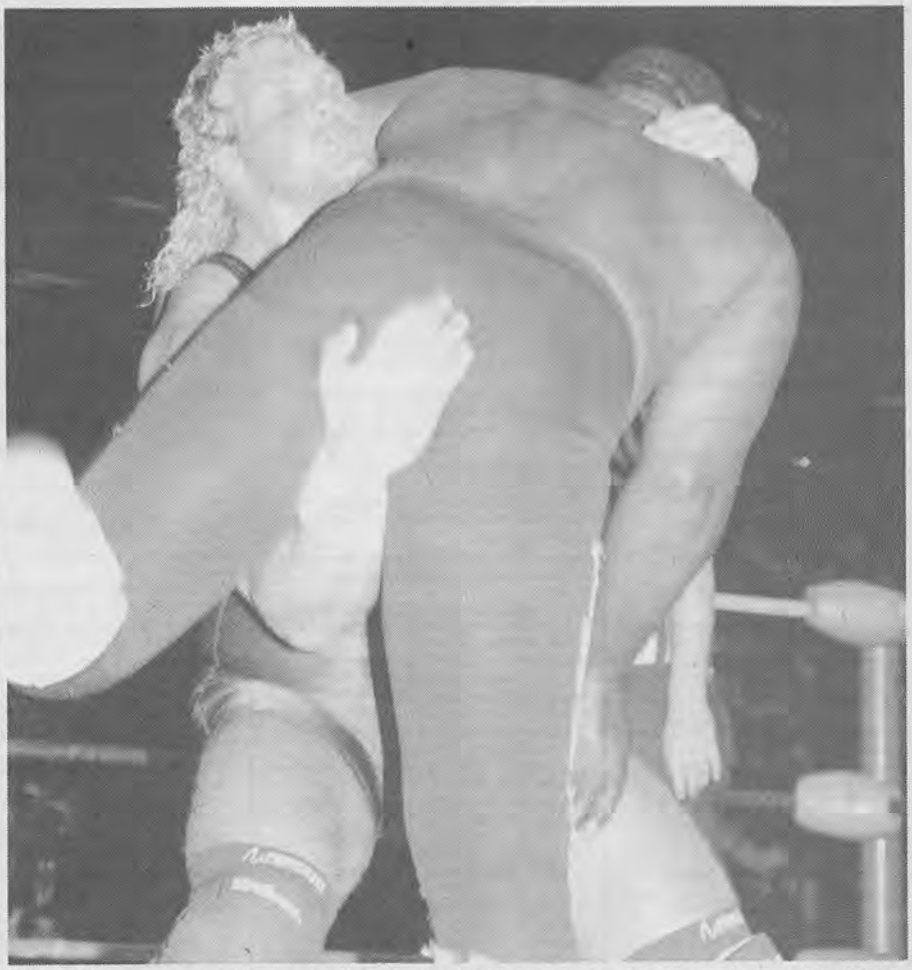

When Vicious moved into contention for the NWA World title, he stepped on a lot of toes, including those of his fellow Horseman, ex-champ Ric Flair.

When the NWA announced that Vicious would be next in line for title shots at World champion Sting, something seemed strange.

Flair was incensed at the other Horsemen for supporting the decision.

"I'm the former World champion and nobody but me should be getting Sting," Flair said.

Insiders, however, report that Vicious intimidated the other Horsemen into requesting title shots for him.

"Deep-down, they didn't want to do it," one wrestler reported. "They didn't think he was ready, and they agreed that Flair deserved the shots. But Sid's a big man, and at times his temper can be terrifying. I think for the first time, the Horsemen were intimidated into doing something they didn't want to do."

Ole and the rest of the Horsemen, of course, deny all of this. NWA Vice President Jim Herd said Vicious is a rightful contender.

"He's the future of this sport," Herd said.

Maybe so.

Then came the incident on August 6 in Marietta, Georgia, at the Cobb County Civic Center. Brian Pillman and Tom Zenk were wrestling The Midnight Express. There was a four-way brawl in the ring. Stan Lane had Zenk in a full-nelson. Vicious ran from the dressing room like a shot and tried to clothesline Zenk.

Zenk ducked. Vicious struck Lane.

Hard.

"Felt like a Mack truck had run

straight into my neck," Lane said.

Jim Cornette ran into the ring and yelled at Vicious who, not surprisingly, manhandled Cornette. Finally, Vicious and Eaton battled back to the dressing room.

"It was a scary scene," Cornette admitted. "I've never seen a man look as crazy as Vicious did. I looked into his eyes and saw the devil. It was frightening!"

Vicious made a tremendous impact upon the sport in his rookie year. He was widely hailed as a future world champion, the wrestler of the '90s, the most dominant young star in the sport. He had muscles, size, skill, and agility.

Yet the injury and the time spent on the sidelines have obviously slowed his progress.

Meanwhile, Vicious has become crazier than ever.

"Sid feels as if the time is now," Barry Windham explained. Or tried to explain. "Everything that he missed in those six months, he wants to make up for. I try to tell him to slow down, to take things as they come. But he wants everything yesterday."

Vicious won't take the time to sit back and learn. He won't listen to his elders. He won't learn from his mistakes.

Instead, he goes berserk and makes new enemies.

"Believe me, that young man needs all the friends he can get," Teddy Long said. "I'll tell you one thing, he's not easy to get along with."

Joining the Horsemen was obviously a mistake. In fact, at this point in his career, Vicious has made more mistakes than he's allowed.

The final chapter on Vicious' career won't be written for a long time. But I have an idea how the last sentence will go:

"Sid Vicious went berserk, and he never stopped going berserk." □

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 14)

The Ultimate Warrior intends to throw Rick Rude into the cornerpost. Warrior now has Intercontinental champ Kerry Von Erich on his side in the fight against the Heenan family.

the match toe-to-toe, but Rude interfered, causing the Warrior to come in the ring. Soon, all four men were battling, with Warrior and Kerry getting the best of their opponents.

While Rude and Hennig argued about a lapse in team communication, Warrior smashed their heads together and threw Hennig back in the ring to face Von Erich. It appeared that Kerry would finish off Hennig after several "tornado punches" and a clawhold, but Curt managed to catapult Kerry into Rude's boot.

For the next several minutes, Hennig and Rude dominated Von Erich. As Hennig mercilessly choked Kerry, Warrior ran in and tried to break it up. As referee Joey Marella ordered Warrior back to his corner, Rude held Von Erich for a Hennig dropkick, but Kerry ducked and Rude got hit.

That gave Kerry the chance to tag out to Warrior, who pounded Hennig with several clotheslines and a shoulderblock, then splashed him for the pin.

In other bouts: Ted DiBiase beat Big Bossman by disqualification . . . Marty Jannetty & Shane Douglas defeated The Orient Express . . . The Barbarian beat Ronnie Garvin . . . Koko B. Ware defeated Lanny Poffo . . . Dustin Rhodes pinned Bob Bradley . . . Haku beat Barry O.

Memphis, TN ***(Correspondent—Mark Mitchell):*** Austin Idol returned to the USWA, teaming with Jerry Lawler and Bill Dundee to take on Eddie Gilbert, "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony, and John Tatum in a stretcher match. To maintain order at ringside, USWA promoter Jerry Jarrett ordered Sam Lowe, Gilbert's bodyguard, handcuffed to matchmaker Eddie Marlin.

Jerry Lawler jumps over the ring railing to get at John Tatum during a six-man bout.

As all six men brawled in the ring, Tom Burton ran to ringside and smashed Marlin on the back of the head. Then he took the keys to the handcuffs from Marlin's pocket and unlocked Lowe.

Lowe and Burton ran into the ring, grabbed Idol, gave him a double-piledriver, and left. The referee saw Idol unconscious on the mat and called for the stretcher. Idol was taken back to the dressing room, and Gilbert, Anthony, and Tatum were declared the winners.

In other bouts: Joey Maggs pinned The Galaxian . . . Rex King pinned Tom Burton . . . Ken Wayne & Cowabunga defeated Jeff Gaylord & Downtown Bruno . . . Brian Lee & Don Harris beat Jeff Jarrett & The Snowman . . . Tessa defeated Dirty White Girl.

Tampa, FL ***(Correspondent—Shannon Rose):*** When Robert Fuller returned to Florida to renew his feud with PWF champion Steve Keirn, he brought his own referee from Tennessee!

As expected, the ref, Jim Bragg, was biased toward Fuller, allowing him to get away with the most blatant and obvious rule-breaking. Eventually, Fuller used the ropes to pin Keirn.

As Bragg awarded Fuller the title, referee Mickey Jay ran in, slugged Bragg, and ordered the match to continue. A few moments later, Keirn piledrived Fuller and Jay counted the pin, so Keirn retained the title.

In other bouts: The Nasty Boys beat Lou Perez & Joe Gomez . . . Jim Backlund pinned The Coconut Kid . . . Hurricane Walker beat Sgt. Rock . . . Mark Starr defeated Powerhouse Parker . . . A.J. Watson pinned Debbie Drake. □

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 16)

Brian Pillman insists he'll never wrestle as a rulebreaker. If he did, he wouldn't have a chance to fight men like Buddy Landell.

team title, we didn't need to bend the rules at all. Now that we're back together as a team, we still trying to maintain the same high standards that we set in the past. If you ask me, rulebreakers like Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, and Stan Hansen are real losers. Sure, they may hold titles at times, but the way they do so only shames them instead bringing them any real glory."

***

Q: "This query is for 'Iceman' King Parsons: Why don't you mend your troubles with Brickhouse Brown and form a tag team again? In my opinion, The Blackbirds were the best team in USWA history!"—Rowena Harris, Dallas

A: "Never gonna happen, no way, no how," Parsons insists. "Sure, me and Brick got our share of big wins, but now he's revealed himself to be a raggedy rooty-poot of the first magnitude. He's been teaming up with guys like Jeff Jarrett and Billy Travis, and anybody that hangs with bozos like them has no business getting involved with me. In fact, I can't wait to get my hands on Brown and teach him the error of his ways by beating some common sense back into him. As long as he's wrestling on the other side, I don't wanna have nothin' to do with the bum!"

***

Q: "I just have to get an answer from Tony Anthony. First, you christened Alex Porteau as your 'Dirty White Boy' partner. Then, you used Jimmy Powell, but only for a few weeks. Then, Tom Burton joined you, but now he's gone, too. Why can't you keep a tag team partner?"—Tom Richardson, Memphis, TN

A: "Richardson, you're trying to make me look bad, but you won't

get away with it," replied Anthony. "Sure, I've gone through a lot of tag team partners, but they've got to live up to my high standards or they're history. Alex, Jimmy, and Tom were all good wrestlers, but none of them could embody the greatness that just oozes out of my every pore. Right now, I think I've found the solution. I've been doing a lot of teaming with Eddie Gilbert, and I've got to admit that

"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony has a much easier time keeping Dirty White Girl at his side than he does finding tag team partners.

he's the greatest partner I've ever had. But as long as I stay on top, I don't care who my partner is. And besides—I'm great enough to succeed as a singles wrestler, anyway!"

***

Q: "My question is for Associate Editor Andy Rodriguez: Do you think Rick Rude has what it takes to dethrone The Ultimate Warrior as WWF World champion? After all, Rude beat the Warrior for the Intercontinental belt at WrestleMania V."—Sean Issacs, Levittown, NY

A: "Frankly, I think Rude has had his day in the sun," answered Rodriguez. "The only reason he was able to take a fluke victory over the Warrior is because Bobby Heenan interfered on his behalf. Rude has garnered many World title shots at the Warrior, and he's been turned back every time. Personally, I think Randy Savage and Earthquake can give the Warrior much tougher matches for the title than Rude ever could." □

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)

can be a success in football and baseball, there's no reason I can't be equally as successful in football and wrestling."

The 6-foot, 235-pound Putski is both powerful and lithe. With the ability to bench-press over 530 pounds and a black belt in karate, he is a force to be reckoned with for any opponent.

"Scott is a remarkable athlete," said Ivan Putski. "He blends skills and techniques from so many different disciplines—football, wrestling, weightlifting, karate. He's incredibly well-rounded, and I think that once he gets some experience under his belt, he'll be able to apply those skills in ways that opponents will never be able to deal with. He's a lot more versatile now that I was at his age."

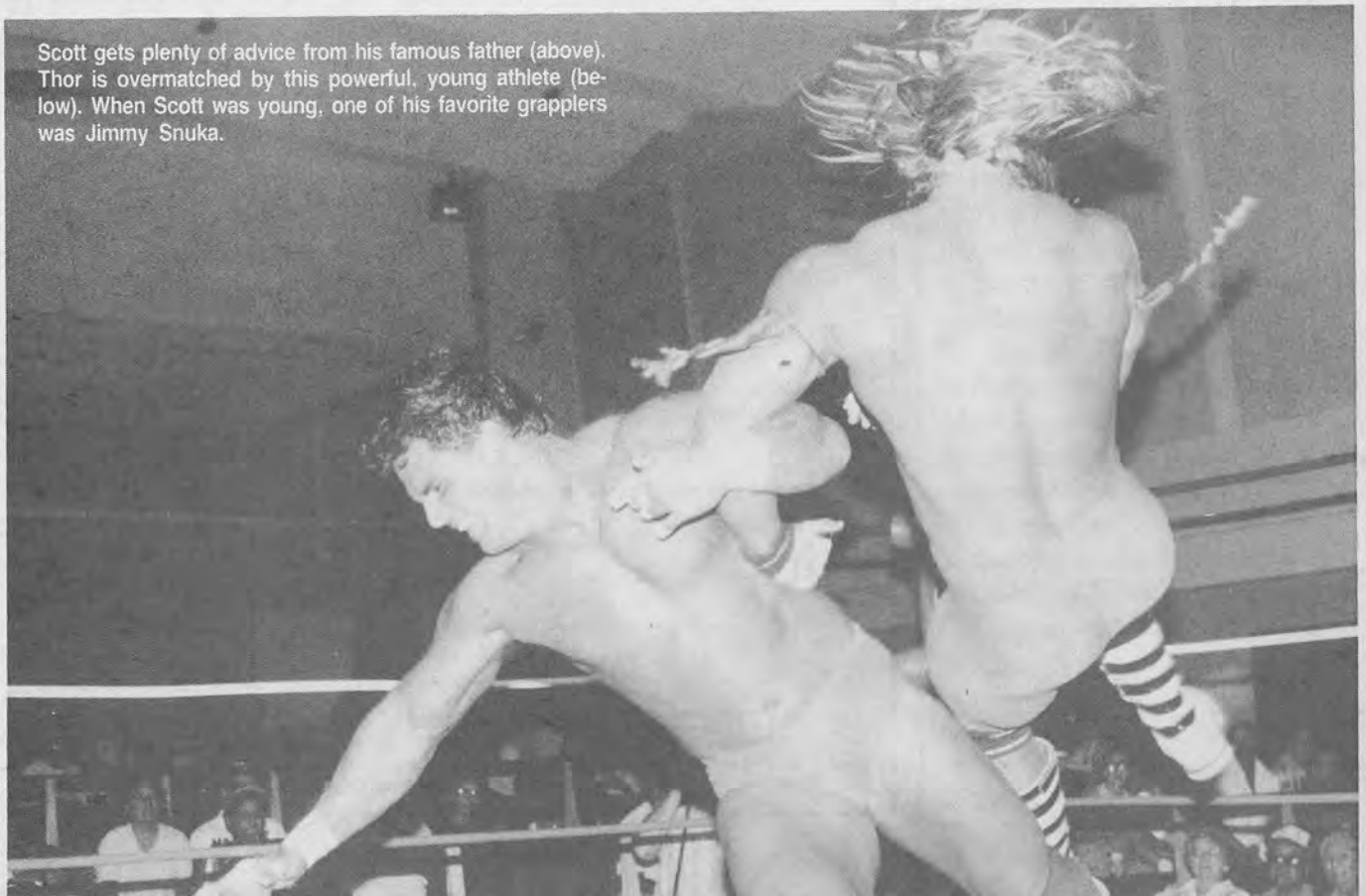
While Ivan used brute strength to squash his opponents over the course of his 22-year career that included a stint with Tito Santana as WWF tag team champions in 1979, Scott prefers to rely on his considerable speed and agility to get the job done.

"One of my favorite wrestlers is Jimmy Snuka," said Scott. "Growing up, I loved the way he moved around the ring. He was so quick and agile, and I was really into his high-flying maneuvers. I'd like to be able to develop some of those same kinds of maneuvers someday."

For the time being, Scott is honing his skills on the independent circuit, including his father's new federation, the WWA. Eventually, though, he wants to move on to bigger things.

"I would love to wrestle in the WWF," he says. "I think it would be great to win a title in the same federation where my dad won a title back when I was a kid. What a thrill that would be!

"Hey, I'm ready and willing to do whatever it takes to make it," Putski continues. "The main thing is the competition. I love it. I thrive on going toe-to-toe with an opponent. That's what it's all about. The thrill of competing is what I thrive on in both football and in wrestling. I think that the day I stop competing will be the day that I die." □



Scott gets plenty of advice from his famous father (above). Thor is overmatched by this powerful, young athlete (below). When Scott was young, one of his favorite grapplers was Jimmy Snuka.

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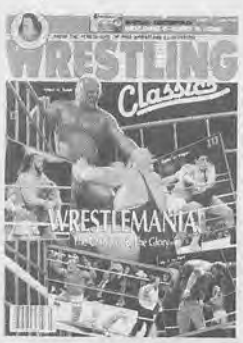

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GANG WAR

(Continued from page 31)

Gilbert tosses a beverage in Lawler's face. Burton, Tessa, and White Girl can't get in on the action because they're all handcuffed together.

And just when things are about to return to normal, Idol returns to the ring, seemingly out of nowhere, with a baseball bat. Wielding it like the Sultan of Swat, Idol just misses Anthony, Tatum, and Gilbert.

"Strike three," Gilbert screams out as he heads back to the dressing room.

Well, at least *some* order has been restored over the past few weeks. Tatum and Tessa have left the area. White Girl now has nobody to play with.

"I ran them out," White Girl proudly announces.

But order hasn't totally been restored. Not when a wrestling official sinks low enough to fight a photographer in a 10-round boxing main event.

Marlin vs. Lowe wasn't exactly the fight of the century.

"But I knocked his lights out," Marlin declared.

Is that what this Memphis gang war has come down to?

"I must honestly say that, in all my years of wrestling, I've never been involved in such a brutal feud," Lawler said. "I can also honestly say that I have never hated anyone as much as I hate Gilbert, Anthony, Burton, and especially that coward Lowe. To think that I once thought he was a good man."

"I am a good man," Lowe retorted. "And I chose the side of good. That's what an honest journalist does."

Excuse us, Sam, but please stop associating yourself with journalism.

USWA and CWA officials could easily take steps to end the carnage by suspending anyone who brings a baseball bat into the ring. So far, the only official action taken has been to suspend Burton for an attack on Marlin.

"Marlin's become a player in this feud," Burton protested. "For them to call him a matchmaker isn't dealing with reality. He fought Lowe. He's part of this."

Maybe we're all part of this. Maybe the whole damned sport of wrestling, from the fans to the media to the officials to the wrestlers to the popcorn vendors, have created what's happening in Memphis these days.

Violence begets violence. The monster feeds off of itself. Wrestling has sunk beneath the gutter.

Wrestling has reached hell.

And in hell, bats, babes, and blood are just the beginning of the many tortures to come. □

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STAN HANSEN

(Continued from page 33)

shell out the fines and spend the occasional day-, week-, or month-long suspension on the sidelines.

"They're trying to make him into something he's not," Terry Gordy said. "Stan's a tough man, and he ain't gonna change. His biggest mistake was signing that contract."

According to NWA insiders, Hansen's contract is quite lucrative and contains many guarantees. But it also contains a clause that keeps him from getting paid while under suspension. It also prevents him from wrestling in another federation while under suspension.

"The only thing it doesn't do is keep him from wrestling in Japan while under suspension," an NWA insider said. "That's one right he'd never give up. Hansen loves wrestling in Japan."

Naturally, NWA executives deny that they're unfairly punishing Hansen.

"He must play by the rules everyone else plays by," NWA Vice President Jim Herd said. "Stan is a great wrestler, certainly one of the all-time legends of the sport, and that's why we want him here. But we certainly never intended to give him free rein. If people say we're

In the NWA, Rich was Hansen's main target (top left). "The Lariat" got in trouble for bullying ref Pee Wee Anderson (above). In Japan, Hansen's foes have included Big Van Vader (below).

holding him back, fine. I say we're merely asking him to play by the rules."

An unrealistic request? A request that can only turn Stan Hansen into somebody he's not?

"Undoubtedly," said one NWA wrestler who requested anonymity. "The NWA wanted to see how far they could push Hansen. Well, they're finding out. Unfortunately, Hansen's finding his hands tied. As long as he's under suspension, he can't wrestle anywhere in the United States."

Hansen might have made a mistake by leaving Japan. His value there is greater than anywhere else. He is the mean, fearless cowboy of movie legend. When Brody died two years ago, Hansen was left to carry the brawler's mantle in Japan.

"I think it's always bothered U.S. wrestling officials that Hansen and Brody decided to spend most of their careers in Japan," said six-time former NWA World champion Lou Thesz. "To them, it didn't make sense, but it's all part of what makes Hansen such a free spirit. Take that away from him and he's no longer Stan Hansen."

Hansen's future plans are undecided. He is incensed at the NWA, but feels bound by contract. The value of the contract is also an obvious draw. Yet he must be true to himself. He cannot allow others to control his life.

"Money's important," Hansen said. "I've got my ol' lady down home on the ranch and a slew of children to support. But I'm not giving up my self-respect for nobody, especially some pencil-pusher in a monkey suit. I've got my pride."

Right now, he has plenty of time to ponder his decision.

Hansen, the aggressor, is clearly the victim in this case.

Will he give in to his captors? Or will his anger fuel an as-yet unreleased explosion of violence in the NWA?

Only Hansen knows for sure. □

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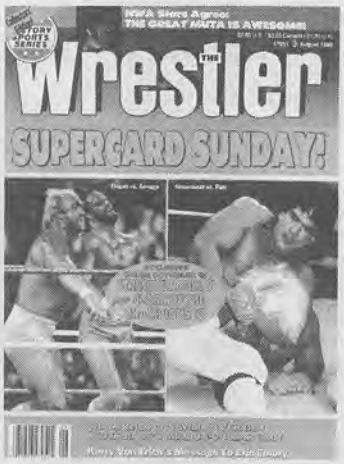

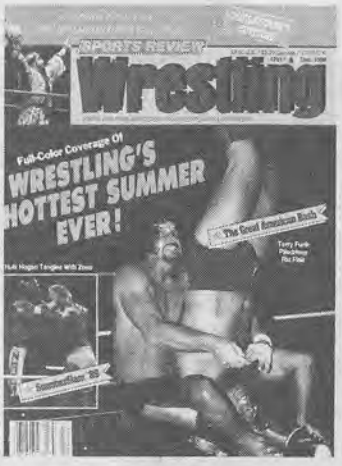

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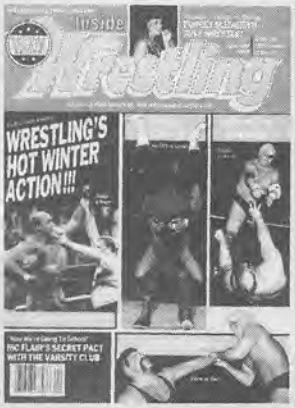

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ARN ANDERSON

(Continued from page 43)

attached to it. Arn is expected to defend the title every 30 days, but if nobody challenges him to it, he doesn't have to. Admittedly, with everything else going on in the NWA these days, there haven't been many challengers."

Orndorff, when told of his mistake, said he had no interest in Anderson's TV title.

"See, what'd I tell you?" Orndorff cracked. "The Horsemen don't have a single champion!"

But the TV title has a proud history. Dusty Rhodes and Tully Blanchard had some legendary battles over the belt. That was before the age of pay-per-view TV.

"There was a time when the TV title was the only singles title that was defended on TV," *The Wrestler* columnist Matt Brock said. "But in these days of big cards every month or so, fans get to see World title and U.S. title defenses all the time. In fact, the U.S. title is often defended on TV. In many ways, the TV title has outlived its usefulness. It goes back to the early days of cable, before all the flash and glitz poisoned the sport."

In many ways, so does Arn Anderson. He is a no-nonsense wrestler who doesn't rely on gimmicks to pick up a day's pay. He is a strong all-around wrestler who mixes science with toughness. His interviews are straight and to the point. Nothing is unknown about Arn Anderson; opponents fear him because they know exactly what they are getting into.

That's why his reign as TV champion has been so low-key. Anderson does not announce his accomplishments; he wears his belt only for title defenses. And he makes no verbose claims of greatness.

In a way, Orndorff was right: The Horsemen *don't* have a champion.

"Nobody cares about the TV ti-

Orndorff goes into the lion's den, taking a shot at Ric Flair as Barry Windham and Anderson close in on him (right). Beating the Horsemen is a bigger priority for Orndorff than winning the TV belt is.

Since winning the TV title from The Great Muta (below), Anderson has defended it only sporadically, a far cry from the days when Dusty Rhodes and Tully Blanchard feuded over it like it was a world title.

tle," Orndorff said later. "I'm sure Anderson is very proud of his title, but I'm not sure anybody wants it. That belt is a dinosaur, a relic of a forgotten age."

No guarantees come with being NWA TV champion. Title shots are not assured; glory is a long way away.

Perhaps the TV title needs a great feud to return to its past glories. Orndorff vs. Anderson might be that feud. Anderson, though, is more interested in fighting a larger battle against The Dudes With Attitudes.

"We all have to have priorities, and these are mine," Arn said. "I'm part of The Four Horsemen, and we've been challenged by The Dudes With Attitudes. First on our priority list is getting the World title back from Sting. Then we'll worry about everything else. If I'm a forgotten champion, so be it. All I know is that nobody's forgetting the Horsemen."

No-nonsense Arn has declared his priorities.

The NWA TV title, it seems, is at the bottom of *everyone's* list. □

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WINTER 1984/Color pinup: Billy Jack Haynes. **Stories include:** Ventura, Adams, Martel, Flair, Reed.

FALL 1985/Color pinup: Steve Keirn & Stan Lane. **Stories include:** Albano & Hogan, DiBiase, Warriors, Garvin.

WINTER 1985/Color pinup: Barry Windham. **Stories include:** Hogan, Zbyszko, Kerry, R&R Express, Steamboat, Thesz.

SPRING 1986/Color pinup: The Road Warriors. **Stories include:** Martel, Savage vs. Poffo, Hogan, Santana, Steamboat.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinup: Rock 'n' Roll Express & Magnum T.A. **Stories include:** Flair, Warriors, JYD, Magnum, Williams.

FALL 1986/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham, Luger, Rhodes.

WINTER 1986/Color pinup: Hulk Hogan. **Stories include:** Flair, Freebirds, Hogan, Andre, Watts, Haynes, Fantastics.

SPRING 1987/Color pinup: The Four Horsemen. **Stories include:** Ventura, T.A., Bulldogs, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinup: Road Warriors workout. **Stories include:** Hogan-Andre, Rockers, Koloff, Warriors, Hall-Luger.

FALL 1987/Color pinup: Dark Journey. **Stories include:** Albano, Hogan, T.A., Lane, Hyatt, Hennig, Luger.

WINTER 1987/Color pinup: Jesse Ventura. **Stories include:** Kerry, Rhodes, Hogan, Flair, Honky Tonk, DiBiase.

SPRING 1988/Color pinup: Elizabeth. **Stories include:** Hennig, Koloff, Savage, Strike Force, Warriors, Andre-Hogan.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinup: Missy Hyatt. **Stories include:** Rock 'n' Roll Express, Hogan, Sting, Luger, Owen Hart, Animal.

FALL 1988/Color pinup: Madusa Miceli. **Stories include:** Savage, Hyatt, Von Erich, Triple Dome, Demolition, Steamboat, Heenan, Lawler.

WINTER 1988/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** DiBiase, Flair, Duggan, Sting, Piper, Luger, Brody.

SPRING 1989/Color pinup: Rick Steamboat. **Stories include:** Bigelow, Lawler, Blazer, Sting, Ultimate-Hogan, Jake-Andre, Powers of Pain.

SUMMER 1989/Color pinup: Sting & Lex Luger. **Stories include:** Hogan, Von Erich, Sting & Ultimate, Warriors, Nikita, Luger.

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THE Wrestler

TOP 10

1. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   (2) NWA World champion
2. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
   280, Queens, NY
   (1) WWF World champion
3. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   (3) U.S. heavyweight champion
4. **KERRY VON ERICH**
   260, Denton, TX
   (-) WWF Intercontinental champion
5. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   (-) No. 2 contender: WWF title
6. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   (5) No. 2 contender: NWA title
7. **LARRY ZBYSZKO**
   248, Pittsburgh, PA
   (7) AWA World champion
8. **RICK RUDE**
   246, Robbinsdale, MN
   (6) No. 2 contender: WWF title
9. **CURT HENNIG**
   235, Minneapolis, MN
   (4) No. 1 contender: I-C title
10. **ARN ANDERSON**
    249, Minneapolis, MN
    (8) NWA TV champion

Doom

TAG TEAMS

1. **DOOM**
   Combined weight: 565 pounds
   (1) NWA World tag team champions
2. **THE HART FOUNDATION**
   Combined weight: 515 pounds
   (6) WWF World tag team champions
3. **RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
   Combined weight: 483 pounds
   (5) U.S. tag team champions
4. **DEMOLITION (SMASH, CRUSH, AX)**
   Combined weight: 895 pounds
   (3) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag team title
5. **THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
   Combined weight: 453 pounds
   (2) No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
6. **THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
   Combined weight: 458 pounds
   (4) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title
7. **BRIAN PILLMAN & TOM ZENK**
   Combined weight: 463 pounds
   (-) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title
8. **TRACEY SMOTHERS & STEVE ARMSTRONG**
   Combined weight: 451 pounds
   (8) No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag team title
9. **D.J. PETERSON & THE TROOPER**
   Combined weight: 488 pounds
   (-) AWA World tag team champions
10. **AL MADRIL & RICKY SANTANA**
    Combined weight: 466 pounds
    (-) PNW tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
STING
(C) 260, Venice Beach, CA

1. **LEX LUGER** *(1) 268, Chicago, IL*
2. **RIC FLAIR** *(2) 243, Minneapolis, MN*
3. **SID VICIOUS** *(-) 318, West Memphis, AR*
4. **ARN ANDERSON** *(4) 249, Minneapolis, MN*
5. **STAN HANSEN** *(-) 322, Borger, TX*
6. **MARK CALLOUS** *(3) 320, Dallas, TX*
7. **BIG VAN VADER** *(-) 375, Denver, CO*
8. **BRIAN PILLMAN** *(-) 226, Cincinnati, OH*
9. **BARRY WINDHAM** *(7) 263, Sweetwater, TX*
10. **JUNKYARD DOG** *(5) 305, Charlotte, NC*

WWF

World Champion:
THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
(C) 280, Queens, NY

1. **KERRY VON ERICH** *(-) 260, Denton, TX*
2. **HULK HOGAN** *(-) 302, Venice Beach, CA*
3. **RICK RUDE** *(2) 246, Robbinsdale, MN*
4. **CURT HENNIG** *(1) 235, Minneapolis, MN*
5. **EARTHQUAKE** *(3) 462, Montreal, Quebec*
6. **RANDY SAVAGE** *(-) 245, Sarasota, FL*
7. **JAKE ROBERTS** *(8) 245, Stone Mountain, GA*
8. **BIG BOSSMAN** *(7) 348, Cobb County, GA*
9. **THE WARLORD** *(-) 360, Chicago, IL*
10. **JIMMY SNUKA** *(-) 250, Fiji Islands*

AWA

World Champion:
LARRY ZBYSZKO
(C) 248, Pittsburgh, PA

1. **B. BRIAN BLAIR** *(-) 235, Tampa, FL*
2. **BARON VON RASCHKE** *(2) 271, Berlin, Germany*
3. **HARLEY RACE** *(-) 268, Kansas City, MO*
4. **BRAD RHEINGANS** *(3) 248, Appleton, MN*
5. **BUCK ZUMHOFE** *(10) 222, Minneapolis, MN*
6. **COL. DeBEERS** *(8) 248, South Africa*
7. **JONNIE STEWART** *(4) 242, Pacific Paliades, CA*
8. **TOMMY JAMMER** *(5) 245, San Diego, CA*
9. **CURTIS HUGHES** *(-) 308, Kansas City, KS*
10. **D.J. PETERSON** *(7) 245, St. Joseph, MO*

USWA

USWA Champion:
TITLE HELD UP
To be filled in tournament

1. **ANGEL OF DEATH** *(-) 310, Los Angeles, CA*
2. **JOHN TATUM** *(3) 236, Hollywood, CA*
3. **JERRY LAWLER** *(2) 234, Memphis, TN*
4. **BILL DUNDEE** *(4) 214, Melbourne, Australia*
5. **JEFF JARRETT** *(7) 200, Hendersonville, TN*
6. **EDDIE GILBERT** *(-) 222, Lexington, TN*
7. **TONY ANTHONY** *(-) 235, Bucksnort, TN*
8. **CHRIS ADAMS** *(6) 228, Stratford, England*
9. **STEVE AUSTIN** *(5) 241, Dallas, TX*
10. **BRICKHOUSE BROWN** *(-) 225, Winter Haven, FL*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue, while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

1. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
2. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
3. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
   280, Queens, NY
   Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
4. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular
5. **KERRY VON ERICH**
   260, Denton, TX
   Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular
6. **BIG BOSSMAN**
   312, Cobb County, GA
   Last issue: unrated
7. **JERRY LAWLER**
   234, Memphis, TN
   Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
8. **JAKE ROBERTS**
   246, Stone Mountain, GA
   Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular
9. **BILL DUNDEE**
   214, Melbourne, Australia
   Last issue: unrated
10. **SCOTT STEINER**
    235, Bay City, MI
    Last issue: unrated

MOST HATED

1. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
2. **SID VICIOUS**
   318, West Memphis, AK
   Last issue: unrated
3. **EARTHQUAKE**
   462, Montreal, Quebec
   Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
4. **RICK RUDE**
   246, Robbinsdale, MN
   Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
5. **ARN ANDERSON**
   249, Minneapolis, MN
   Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated
6. **CURT HENNIG**
   235, Minneapolis, MN
   Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
7. **EDDIE GILBERT**
   222, Lexington, TN
   Last issue: unrated
8. **DINO BRAVO**
   256, Montreal, Quebec
   Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated
9. **STEVE AUSTIN**
   241, Dallas, TX
   Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated
10. **LARRY ZBYSZKO**
    248, Pittsburgh, PA
    Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

For period ended August 31, 1990

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—ULTIMATE WARRIOR ..... 88 points
2—RIC FLAIR ..... 87 points
3—LEX LUGER ..... 75 points
4—HULK HOGAN ..... 60 points
5—CURT HENNIG ..... 43 points

TAG TEAMS

1—RICK & SCOTT STEINER ..... 86 points
2—DEMOLITION ..... 82 points
3—DOOM ..... 63 points
4—LEGION OF DOOM ..... 50 points
5—HART FOUNDATION ..... 47 points

PNW

PNW Champion:
THE GRAPPLER
(1) 280, parts unknown

1—**RIP OLIVER**
(-) 245, Tampa, FL
2—**SCOTT NORTON**
(6) 360, Minneapolis, MN
3—**RICKY SANTANA**
(5) 235, Orlando, FL
4—**LARRY OLIVER**
(2) 235, Tampa, FL
5—**STEVE DOLL**
(3) 237, Dallas, TX
6—**THE EQUALIZER**
(7) 250, parts unknown
7—**JOHNATHAN HOLLDAY**
(-) 232, Cape Cod, MA
8—**JOHN RAMBO**
(-) 240, Ft. Bragg, NC
9—**THE SPOILER**
(-) 265, parts unknown
10—**MOONDOG MORETTI**
(9) 245, Los Angelese, CA

ICW

ICW Champion:
VIC STEAMBOAT
(C) 235, Honolulu, HI

1—**CACTUS JACK**
(8) 247, Truth Or Cons., NM
2—**ERIC SBRACCHIA**
(5) 240, Boston, MA
3—**BOB ORTON**
(-) 245, Kansas City, KS
4—**TASMANIAN DEVIL**
(4) 245, Tasmania
5—**HOSS**
(9) 420, Waco, TX
6—**MONDO KLEEN**
(-) 305, Brooklyn, NY
7—**G.Q. MADISON**
(-) 240, Philadelphia, PA
8—**JOE SAVOLDI**
(-) 220, Parsippany, NJ
9—**KEN PATERA**
(6) 256, Portland, OR
10—**CURLY MOE**
(-) 555, Mudville, OH

GEORGIA: **Georgia All-Star champion**—Nick Busick; **1**—Joel Deaton; **2**—Billy Black; **3**—Steve Lawler; **4**—Randy Rose; **5**—Sheik Zatar; **6**—Abdullah the Butcher; **7**—Dino Minelli; **8**—Eddie Gilbert; **9**—Chris Walker; **10**—Big Red.

LPWA: **LPWA champion**—Susan Sexton; **1**—Bambi; **2**—The Beast; **3**—Shelly Francis; **4**—Bad Girl; **5**—Reggie Bennett; **6**—Misty Blue Simmes; **7**—Black Venus; **8**—Heidi Lee Morgan; **9**—Lelani Kai; **10**—Judy Martin.

PWA: **PWA champion**—Jerry Lynn; **1**—Jeff Warner; **2**—Charlie Norris; **3**—Larry Cameron; **4**—Tim Hunt; **5**—Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie; **6**—Tommy Ferrara; **7**—Tommy Jammer; **8**—Randy Gust; **9**—Tino DeNucci; **10**—Lightning Kid.

PWF: **PWF champion**—Steve Keirn; **1**—Robert Fuller; **2**—Jim Backlund; **3**—Mark Starr; **4**—Dick Slater; **5**—The Terminator; **6**—Dennis Knight; **7**—Hurricane Walker; **8**—Powerhouse Parker; **9**—Al Green; **10**—Coconut Kid.

SAPW: **SAPW champion**—Robert Fuller; **1**—Rick Steamboat; **2**—Chris Chavis; **3**—Curtis Thompson; **4**—Matt Borne; **5**—Vince Torelli; **6**—Paul Jones; **7**—Dean Malenko; **8**—Jack Victory; **9**—Colt Steele; **10**—Bo Ragin.

WWC: **WWC champion**—Carlos Colon; **1**—TNT; **2**—Invader I; **3**—Atkie Mulumba; **4**—Scott Hall; **5**—Kim Duk; **6**—Abdullah the Butcher; **7**—Carl Styles; **8**—Rick Valentine; **9**—Lance Idol; **10**—Miguel Perez Jr.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 18 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

To the mailbag! "Ratings Analysis" continually seeks out reader responses and suggestions about our ratings system. Many times, readers come up with their own unusual top 10 ratings. The response to our last such column back in February 1989 was tremendous. In the time that's passed, we've collected many more of these silly categories. This issue, we're devoting this column to more of your offbeat ratings ideas.

From Kevin J. Storar of Conyers, Georgia, comes this list of **Top 10 Specialty Matches:** 1—Barbed wire; 2—Badstreet death match; 3—Tornado-style; 4—Texas death; 5—No holds barred; 6—"I Quit"; 7—Steel cage; 8—"Corporal Punishment"; 9—Loser-leaves-town; 10—Indian strap. Kevin also sent along his list of the **10 Best-Looking Belts:** 1—NWA World; 2—WWF World; 3—U.S. heavyweight; 4—USWA Texas; 5—WWF tag team; 6—WWF Intercontinental; 7—NWA World tag team; 8—NWA U.S. tag team; 9—AWA World; 10—USWA heavyweight.

Not to be outdone is Sam Edwardson of Utica, New York, who offers this list of the **Top 10 Dumbest Wrestling Images:** 1—Curly Moe; 2—Cowabunga; 3—The Galaxian; 4—Zan Panzer; 5—The Honky Tonk Man; 6—Kamala; 7—The Nightstalker; 8—Cousin Luke; 9—Moondog Spot; 10—The Beast.

Sally Porter of Bakersfield, California, is a professional hair stylist, and she has complied this list of the **10 Best Haircuts In Wrestling:** 1—Sting; 2—Lex Luger; 3—The Ultimate Warrior; 4—Tracey Smothers; 5—Road Warrior Hawk; 6—Scott Steiner; 7—Rick Steamboat; 8—Barry Windham; 9—Jerry Lawler; 10—Kerry Von Erich. Sally also sent us a list detailing the other end of the spectrum, the **10 Worst Haircuts In Wrestling:** 1—The Honky Tonk Man; 2—Tommy Rich; 3—Samoan Afa; 4—The Barbarian; 5—Sweet Daddy Falcone; 6—Tony Anthony; 7—Larry Cameron; 8—Ric Flair; 9—Curt Hennig; 10—Bill Dundee.

Barry Young of Denton, Texas, informed us that he's a student of wrestling villainy over the past three decades, and he sent us this list of the **10 Most Blatant Cheaters In Wrestling History (Past And Present):** 1—Ric Flair; 2—The Sheik; 3—Fred Blassie; 4—Bull Curry; 5—Larry Zbyszko; 6—Baron Mikel Scicluna; 7—Ivan Koloff; 8—Roddy Piper; 9—Rick Rude; 10—Earthquake. Frankly, we're surprised that Earthquake made Barry's list, since he's been active in the WWF for less than a year.

George Tapani of Wenden, Arizona, came up with his **Top 10 Foreign Object Users:** 1—The Sheik; 2—George Steele; 3—Abdullah the Butcher; 4—Baron Mikel Scicluna; 5—The Great Mephisto; 6—Randy Savage; 7—Buddy Colt; 8—Luke Graham; 9—Al Costello; 10—Mr. Fuji.

Jerry Albright of Providence, Rhode Island, came up with his list of **10 Oldest Active Wrestlers:** 1—Bobo Brazil; 2—Harley Race; 3—Don Kent; 4—Rufus R. Jones; 5—Abdullah the Butcher; 6—Rocky Johnson; 7—Ivan Koloff; 8—Mil Mascaras; 9—Mr. Saito; 10—Baron Von Raschke.

Instead of looking to the past, Rob Warren of Ventura, California, fashioned this list of the **10 Hottest Prospects In Wrestling:** 1—Brian Pillman; 2—Vic Steamboat; 3—Eric Sbracchia; 4—Steve Dane; 5—Steve Austin; 6—Curtis Thompson; 7—Larry Oliver; 8—Scott Putski; 9—Johnathan Holliday; 10—Billy Black.

Wondering what happened to his favorites is Edward Wilson of Oak Hill, New York, who came up with a list of **10 Great Wrestlers Who Have Disappeared:** 1—The Great Muta; 2—Steve DiSalvo; 3—"Dangerous" Dan Davis; 4—Dungeon Master; 5—Owen Hart; 6—Mando Guerrero; 7—Kokina Maximus; 8—Detroit Demolition; 9—P.Y. Chu-Hi; 10—Soldat Ustinov.

Keeping track of the strengths and weaknesses of many top stars is Sandra Dennig of Fulton, Georgia, who forwarded this list of the **Top 10 Speediest Wrestlers:** 1—Shawn Michaels; 2—Rick Morton; 3—Jeff Jarrrett; 4—Ricky Santana; 5—Lou Perez; 6—Tito Santana; 7—Beetlejuice; 8—Ricky Rice; 9—Robert Gibson; 10—Chris Adams. Dennig also provided us with her compiling of the **10 Slowest Wrestlers:** 1—Andre the Giant; 2—Abdullah the Butcher; 3—El Gigante; 4—Baron Von Raschke; 5—Sid Vicious; 6—Sgt. Slaughter; 7—Rochester Roadblock; 8—Junkyard Dog; 9—Earthquake; 10—Mike Sharpe.

Finally, here's a word from Robert Potter of Washington, D.C., who sent along his list of the **10 Best-Dressed Wrestlers:** 1—Ric Flair; 2—Rick Martel; 3—Scotty the Body; 4—Ted DiBiase; 5—Jerry Lawler; 6—Larry Zbyszko; 7—Kerry Von Erich; 8—Buddy Landell; 9—Steve Austin; 10—Paul Orndorf

Sting

Who's number one? NWA World champion **Sting** takes over the number-one spot in our top 10 ratings for this issue, knocking WWF World titleholder **The Ultimate Warrior** from his lofty perch for the first time. During the past month, Sting scored many victories over former champion **Ric Flair**, with most of these rematches clocking in at well over 30 minutes. Warrior had a fine month, too, and scored a major victory over **Rick Rude** with his steel-cage victory at SummerSlam. However, Warrior devoted the majority of his time during this ratings period to tag team matches with **Kerry Von Erich**, and often joined **The Legion of Doom—Animal** and **Hawk**—for six-man tag bouts.

That's all for now! Have you compiled some wacky, unusual, or silly ratings categories of your own? Don't agree with Sting's top rating for this month? Don't be shy—send your comments to us! Our address, as always, is: "Ratings Analysis," *c/o The Wrestler,* Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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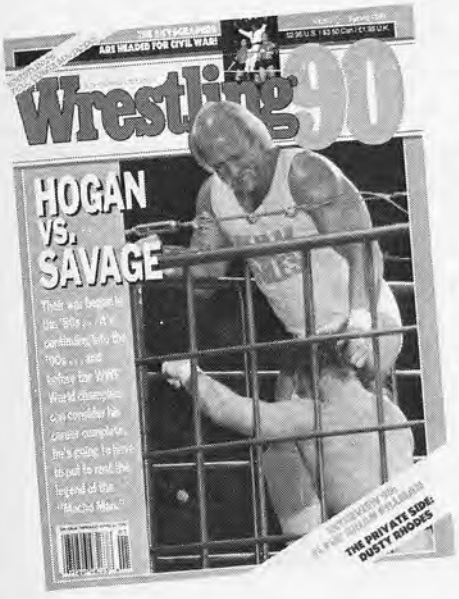

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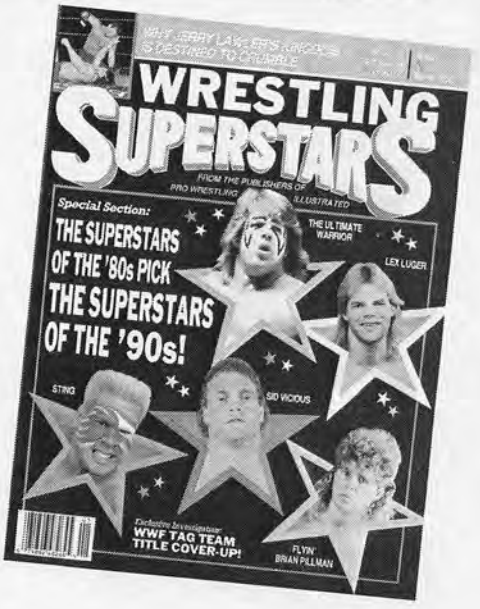

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DELUXE PACKAGE

ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
PWI T-SHIRT *(specify size: s,m,l,xl)*	$7.00 ea.		
PWI CAP	$7.00 ea.		
PWI SKYFLYER	$5.00 ea.		
PWI BUMPER STICKER	$2.00 ea.		
PWI BUTTON	$1.00 ea.		
PWI DELUXE PACKAGE	$19.95 ea.		
		TOTAL AMOUNT	

SHIRT SIZE ☐*Small* ☐*Medium* ☐*Large* ☐*XLarge*

MINIMUM ORDER $2.00

Send To:
TV SPORTS
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

Make checks payable to **TV SPORTS, INC.**

NAME

ADDRESS APT

CITY STATE ZIP

Minimum order: $2.00. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. U.S. funds only. Do not send coins. Offer good in U.S. and Canada only. Foreign orders please add $3.00.